

Hafa Adai!

'CBP rule hampers SMA plan to resume Rota-Guam flights' **PAGE 2**  
\$10K, personal belongings stolen in DRT burglary. **PAGE 3**

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# Saipan Tribune

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## IPI confident of resuming operations

T Galleria to reopen on April 8



Designer brand stores fill the hallway of the newly renovated T Galleria of DFS Ltd. **BEA CABRERA**

DFS Group, the world's leading luxury travel retailer, is set to re-open its T Galleria by DFS, Saipan store on Friday, April 8. The store will be open daily from 1pm to 7pm, with exclusive reopening offers and promotions to welcome back DFS' loyal customers.

With popular beauty brands in-store such as M.A.C., Bobbi Brown, and Estée Lauder, shoppers can enjoy exclusive beauty promotions. With purchases of \$150 or more, LOYAL T members will enjoy an extra 10% off on their beauty. **See T GALLERIA on Page 4**

### 'Uncle Dave' honored on his 90th birthday

Renowned business leader David M. Sablan—more popularly known throughout the islands as "Uncle Dave"—celebrated his 90th birthday last April 2 with over a hun-

dred friends and family at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Sablan was especially honored at his birthday party with commemorative resolutions

**See UNCLE on Page 4**



David M. Sablan, center, is flanked by, from left, David Sablan Jr., Victoria Sablan Coleman, Patricia Sablan, and Stephen Sablan during Saturday's celebration of his 90th birthday. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

By **BEN BLASCHKE**  
INSIDE ASIAN GAMING

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission.

Imperial Pacific International Holdings says it still plans to complete construction of its troubled Saipan casino, Imperial Palace Saipan, despite the property having been closed for the past two years and the local regulator poised to revoke its license.

The update formed part of IPI's fiscal year 2021 results announcement overnight, which saw the company fall to a HK\$690.6 million (US\$88.2 million) loss—narrowed from a loss of HK\$7.39 billion (US\$943.6 million) in 2020 due to reduced expenses. The suspension of casino operations saw the group record no revenue in 2021.

As previously reported by *In-*

side Asian Gaming, the Commonwealth Casino Commission is due to meet in May to determine whether to revoke IPI's casino license for failure to comply with certain requirements under its license agreement.

The CCC has called on IPI to pay a US\$15.5 million casino license fee and US\$3.1 million regulatory fee it failed to pay in 2020, plus a US\$6.6 million fine, to

**See IPI on Page 4**



### 'THIS IS HOW WE DO IT'

Firefighters of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services demonstrate at the 3rd Annual Library Fair last Saturday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot how they put on their turn-out gear. The event signaled the start of "National Library Week" from April 3 to April 9 and drew about 250 parents and children of all ages to the JKPL parking lot.

**LEIGH GASES**

## 'Worst case: Not having a fair trial'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

House of Representatives vice speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) said Wednesday that the worst that can hap-

pen in the impeachment trial in Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is not having a fair trial before the Senate.

At a press conference in the House chamber, Attao said the worst-case scenario is what's

happening right now that they're not given the opportunity to get to the Senate.

He said Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) should give House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez

(Ind-Saipan) leeway to select a team of prosecutors and not just choose one House member to serve as prosecutor.

Attao said if Torres is acquitted during the Senate's trial based the evidence they present, they have to respect

**See WORST on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

New vehicles sold in the U.S. will have to average at least 40 miles per gallon in 2026.

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### WORLD

Ukrainian troops moved cautiously to retake territory north of the country's capital on Saturday.

**Page 13**



### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Many Americans now can get a second COVID-19 booster, but who needs another shot right now?

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## Local

## 'CBP requirement hampers SMA plan to resume Rota-Guam flights'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. Customs and Border Protection's requirement to have a CBP officer on Rota for the preclearance of departing passengers from Rota to Guam is hampering the plan of Star Marianas Air to schedule flights between the two islands, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-

Rota) also told Saipan Tribune yesterday that this recent CBP requirement of having all outbound passengers cleared from Rota to Guam has been a challenge for the resumption of SMA's direct flights from Rota to Guam.

Santos said that prior to voting "yes" for the adoption of the committee report to confirm Agi Quiutugua's nomination as director for the Marianas Visitors Authority during

a Senate session on Rota, she pointed out that it was recommended during their last Rota Legislative Delegation session that the delegation meets with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and MVA regarding the CBP requirement.

Santos said it was suggested that the quick fix is to temporarily assign a CBP



Manglona

officer on Rota, but that this may not be cost effective since the traveling public and/tourists will ultimately be burdened by the cost of such an assignment.

The senator said the Rota delegation will be meeting with both CPA and MVA to see how they can resolve this matter.

Asked about the CBP re-

quirement issue, Manglona said yesterday that he is still following up on a meeting with CBP CNMI Ports director Jeff Hofschneider, who is off island until around April 9,

2022. "I'm very concerned that CPA and MVA don't have a real plan for resuming Rota-Guam direct flights," he said.

Manglona wrote CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio last March 17 requesting assistance in addressing the concern so that the community would be able to fly directly to and from Guam. In the letter, the senator requested Tenorio to identify an alternative accommodation, such as a virtual clearance, if possible, to secure these flight services.

In his March 18 response to Manglona, Tenorio said CPA supports direct flights from Rota to Guam, but it is not within CPA's authority to decide whether "virtual clearance" is an acceptable CBP alternative to their physical presence on Rota. Tenorio said he forwarded a copy of Manglona's letter to Hofschneider.

In his letter to Tenorio, Manglona disclosed that SMA had written to Warren Villagomez, the chairman of the CNMI Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, in November 2021 to express their intention to resume scheduled passenger flight services between Rota and Guam begin-



Santos

ning January 2022.

He said the people of Rota have relied on this flight route, although costly, to connect to Guam due to its close proximity. Manglona said the flight service between Rota and

Guam has provided residents a greater opportunity for medical care, education, and access to affordable commodities.

The flights, however, were suspended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Right now, Rota residents have to travel from Guam to Saipan then Rota, which is more expensive.

"Our people have waited patiently for the resumption of these scheduled flights as chartering flights are very costly during these times of financial hardship," Manglona said.

He said during the process to resume these flight services, SMA learned about the U.S. CBP's requirement, which was only implemented after the onset of the pandemic.

The senator said SMA has expressed on numerous occasions of their commitment to the Rota residents to once again provide direct flight services between Rota and Guam.

At present, Manglona said, each time a chartered flight from Rota to Guam is scheduled, SMA would have to fly a CBP officer from Saipan to Rota and back to clear departing passengers.

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# \$10K, personal belongings stolen in DRT burglary

An estimated \$10,000 and several payment checks, as well as personal belongings of some employees were taken during a break-in at the Division of Tax and Revenue in Dandan, Saipan.

According to a DRT news release, the collection staff

at DRT reported the burglary and theft incident to the Department of Public Safety on April 2, 2022. The incident reportedly appeared to have happened the night before. Stolen items include cash and checks from the prior day's collections and personal be-

longings. DRT said it is coordinating with DPS with the ongoing investigation.

The division also advised taxpayers who submitted check payments on March 31, 2022, to place a stop payment on those checks with their bank. Taxpayers who used the

drop-box on March 31, 2022, are also advised to place a stop payment with their bank.

The DRT news release stated that it will accept newly issued checks to replace the compromised checks and will honor original payment date of March 31, 2022.

"DRT would like to advise the general public that stolen checks are stamped and marked with 'For Deposit Only, Bank of Guam, CNMI GOVT, Revenue Collection' and should not be cashed," it added.

"DRT staff are shaken due to the nature of this incident

and breach of security. Security measures and practices are being reviewed and strengthened to further secure the Collections Branch. DRT is working closely with DPS in the ongoing investigation. No other details will be provided at this time," said DRT director Tracy Norita in the email where she issued the DRT news release.

Separately, a DPS news release stated that DPS received a 911 call on Friday, April 1, 2022, at about 7:22am, reporting the burglary and theft incident. At the scene, police learned that the interior main

entrance door and collection safe had been tampered with. An estimated \$10,000 and several payment checks were taken and a full inventory is still being conducted at this time.

This case remains ongoing. If you have any information on this incident, call 911. If you wish to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. (Saipan Tribune)

## 'Walk for Autism' draws families and community members

By LEIGH GASES  
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CORRESPONDENT

On a windy, Saturday afternoon at the Oleai Beach Road pathway across the Modern Stationary store, families and community supporters gathered to "Walk for Autism" in celebration of April 2 as "Autism Awareness Day" and to kick-start a monthlong celebration of events to raise awareness of those impacted by autism and to support children under the spectrum.

The monthlong celebration of awareness is for different types of disabilities, but the month started off with awareness of the Autism Spectrum Disorder, or ASD, which is a complex developmental disability that affects an individual's social skills, communication, and behavioral challenges.

The event is a family-led event that was also held last year, organized by the Autism Family Support Group. It consists of parents and families that continue to be the No. 1 advocates for their children with autism. The group provides peer support for one another that allows parents to share experiences, obstacles and strategies.

Danielle Su, program manager of the Family to Family Health Information Center

under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., said, "I think this year we have more support. The Head Start team and more families are really supporting this event today."

He explained that the Family to Family Health Information Center under CHCC is a support center supporting families with children's needs. Within the center are different types of support groups, "and one of them is the autism spectrum disorder support group. We support families with children with special health care needs, so we try to empower the parents to lead these kinds of events."

Su invites families who need guidance, who are lost in terms of education, health care and the like, to visit their location at the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. Their business hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. They also provide transportation to and from the office and is not limited to only children with special health care needs. It is provided for all families who have medical appointments for their children as well.

"We would love to invite families to visit our center," Su added.

Every Wednesday for the month of April is "Wear Blue Wednesday." On April 24, the group will have a Fun in the

Park Day at the Sugar King Park at 4pm and children under the spectrum will get a free treat while supplies last. On April 30, the celebration ends with "Art for Autism" that allows individuals to share their art pertaining to autism.

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## Court finds probable cause to try alleged drug dealer

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try a man accused of dealing methamphetamine “ice” following a sting operation last month.

Following a preliminary hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho found probable cause to try Denmar Escareces Malabanan, 33, for the charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

During the hearing, Camacho heard the testimony of Department of Public Safety Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Cris Deleon Guerrero and, based on that, the judge said there is probable cause to believe that Malabanan committed the crimes he is accused of.

The judge remanded Malabanan back to Department of Corrections custody immediately after the hearing and ordered him to return to court on April 4, at 9am for his arraignment.

Malabanan was represented by assistant public defender Vina Seelam while assistant attorney general Steven Kes-

sell appeared in behalf of the government.

According to court documents, task force officers arrested Malabanan back in March 17 on multiple drug charges after a “buy-walk” operation.

During the operation, DETF agents allegedly monitored and recorded calls made by cooperating

sources to Malabanan to purchase “ice.”

DETF officers stated that cooperating sources bought a total of \$190 worth of “ice” from Malabanan in two buy-walk occasions.

When he was arrested, officers also found a total of \$930 in Malabanan’s possession, including the money used by the cooperating sources to purchase methamphetamine.

The following day, March 18, a Rule-5 was drafted for the charges of trafficking and possession with bail set at \$100,000. Camacho maintained the \$100,000 cash bail imposed on Malabanan at a bail hearing last Monday.

Malabanan has prior criminal charges that include robbery, assault and battery, and sexual assault of a minor in the second degree.

cial treat on April 8, subject to conditions and terms. Customers will also have the chance to participate in a raffle drawing to win great prizes. With every purchase of \$200, receive a raffle ticket to join raffles held on April 9, 11 and 13 at 4pm.

The safety and wellbeing of customers and employees remains DFS’ highest priority. DFS is taking all available precautionary measures to safeguard people in the store and adhering to health and safety guidelines from the government agencies and public health officials, and will continue to adjust accordingly. **(PR)**

stunning attractions, [proximate] location and flexible visa policies, with more hotels to be built and opened.

“Once the travel restrictions in Saipan are lifted, the casino in Imperial Palace Saipan shall resume operations and be opened to public. We expect the successional opening of villas and hotel rooms of Imperial Palace Saipan, subject to the lifting of the global travel restrictions, will enhance our capacity to welcome visitors to Saipan.”

*This story was originally published by Inside Asian Gaming. The original article was posted here: <https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2022/04/01/imperial-pacific-falls-to-us88-million-loss-in-fy21-but-confident-of-resuming-saipan-casino-operations/>*



Malabanan

## Court releases funds from IPI accounts to Red Coral

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered the release of the funds seized from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC’s Bank of Saipan accounts to Red Coral Corp., an apartment owner who sued the casino investor for breaching their lease agreement.

In an order last Friday, Chief Judge Ramona Manglona said the U.S. Treasury has completed the processing of the funds seized from IPI’s Bank

of Saipan accounts and is now ordering the release of those funds to the apartment owner.

Manglona explained that during a hearing last March 28 to discuss the funds, no objections were made against its release, prompting the court to issue an order to release the funds to Red Coral in the amount of \$9,386.66 from the court’s Treasury Registry fund.

Despite the release of these funds, IPI must still satisfy the remaining \$140,000-plus judgment.

Back on Feb. 12, 2021, the

court issued a judgment in favor of Red Coral Corp. in the amount of \$150,000 plus post-judgment interest at a rate of 9% per annum, along with costs.

After the appeal period expired, Red Coral filed its second application for writ of execution directed at the Bank of Saipan for money owned or controlled by IPI in the amount not to exceed \$163,500.

This amount included post-judgment interest at 9% per annum accrued to date of no less than \$13,500.

The court granted Red

Coral’s second application for writ of execution, directing the seizure of IPI’s money at the Bank of Saipan.

Pursuant to the court’s order, the clerk issued the writ on March 4, and a notice of writ of execution informing IPI that it must demand a prompt hearing to claim any exemptions or assert any other rights to protect its property.

On March 8, the U.S. Marshal executed the writ and the Bank of Saipan tendered a check to the court in the amount of \$9,386.66.

## CPA allocates \$225K to pave Port of Saipan road

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has approved a supplemental budget request in the amount of \$225,000 to cover the shortfall for the pavement of Industrial Drive at the Port of Saipan.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the board approved during a CPA board meeting last week the supplemental budget request that will

come from CPA’s community benefit fund.

“We are tapping funds from the community benefit fund that we negotiated with Saipan Stevedore as part of their lease renewal,” she said.

After discussing the project for so long, the project will soon become a reality, she said.

“It’s been an item of discussion for some time and the underlying issue was who was responsible for the project. This board, through the leadership of Seaport [Committee]

chair Pete Reyes, took a collaborative approach, engaging stakeholders to work together to identify and put together different sources of funding, regardless whose responsibility the road is, to just get it done,” she said.

King-Hinds said CPA, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, has finally completed the design and is ready to start the long overdue project.

“This project will benefit our tenants and customers at

the Port of Saipan as well as the community who frequently use that thoroughfare to get to the [Saipan Troop Store] and Inos Memorial Park,” the CPA chair said.

King-Hinds said the pavement project encompasses the road that runs in front of Elos S. Inos Memorial Peace Park to the Port of Saipan. In addition, the project will also include the construction of a Port of Saipan signage that CPA hopes will enhance the aesthetics of the area.

## T GALLERIA

From Page 1

purchases and have the chance to play and win exclusive beauty gifts. In addition, top luxury and fashion brands such as Tag Heuer, Montblanc, and Longines will also be open to welcome shoppers. Dinner for two at Loria at the Kensington Hotel Saipan will be offered to customers with purchases over \$3,000, subject to certain conditions and terms.

To welcome customers back to the store and thank them for their support, the first 50 visitors will receive a spe-

## IPI

From Page 1

avoid revocation although IPI has disputed the need to pay up, citing a force majeure clause in its license agreement.

Despite uncertainty over its future, the absence of revenue and the fact that construction is stalled on Imperial Palace Saipan, IPI said in its fiscal year 2021 results announcement on Thursday that it “remains committed to our mission of enhancing the tourism of Saipan and creating local opportunities.

“Despite the current impact from [COVID-19], we believe visitation to the island of Saipan still has great potential in the long run benefiting from the island’s favorable weather,

## UNCLE

From Page 1

from both the CNMI Senate and the House of Representatives. The resolutions were presented by Sen. Edith De Leon Guerrero (D-Saipan) on behalf of the Senate and House Speaker Edmund Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan) and vice speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan).

“Uncle Dave” has been a major contributor to the CNMI’s economy, having established business organizations such as the Rotary Club of Saipan and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

He started his business career with Atkins Kroll Guam in 1952 after graduating from George Washington High School in Guam. He eventually became the auto sales manager at Atkins Kroll. In 1960 he joined Bank of Hawaii when they first established in Guam. After Typhoon Karen

devasted Guam in 1962, Atkins Kroll hired Sablan back to establish a branch of Atkins Kroll, San Francisco on Saipan to service the Northern Marianas and the Micronesian Islands. Later, that branch office of Atkins Kroll San Francisco was incorporated as Microl Corp., whereby Sablan became its first president and general manager. With the establishment of Microl Corp. and its relationship with Atkins Kroll, Microl became the distributor/dealer of General Motor vehicles and products, including the Holden automobile brand manufactured by General Motors Australia.

Microl Corp. became a major contributor to the Micronesian economy.

Throughout his nearly 40 years in business, Sablan served on many civic board and commissions, including serving on the board of the Marianas Visitors Bureau, which later became the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Sablan served in various capacities on the board of the MVA, including vice chairman and chairman over the course of 18 years since 1976.

When he retired from Microl Corp. in 1986, Sablan moved to California with his family but later returned to serve in the Lorenzo Leon Guerrero Administration as chief budget officer. After his outstanding service with the CNMI government, Sablan retired from government service to join TanHoldings in 1993 as a senior business adviser to the TanHoldings Group. Sablan was instrumental in the growth of Century Insurance in both the CNMI and Guam, among other companies within the TanHoldings Group.

In 1968, Sablan established Pacific Micronesia Corp., the parent company that built Saipan Beach Inter-Continental Inn which, at that time, was affiliated with Pan American Airlines. The hotel was later

purchased by the Dai Ichi Hotel Group.

In early 2000, Sablan negotiated the acquisition of the Dai Ichi Hotel both in Guam and on Saipan for TanHoldings. The two hotels became the Fiesta Resort Hotel & Spa.

In 1977, Sablan became the chairman of the fundraising effort to build the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

In 2015, Sablan authored a book titled *A Degree of Success Through Curiosity* published by Dorrance Publishing Company. According to Sablan, “This is an autobiography of my life, the legacy that I want to leave for my children, grandchildren, and beyond.

“I am blessed by God to have reached this milestone age of 90 years and to see generations of my family grow to become successful and contributing members of our community throughout these Mariana Islands,” he said. **(PR)**

## WORST

From Page 1

that. “There’s some situations that happened in the judicial system that the person gets acquitted for,” he said.

The vice speaker said Hofschneider should be flexible so they can address the issue at trial in a fair manner so that the public can also have something to see.

“And this is something that can be utilized for future generations. We don’t want to have the next group of legisla-

tors down the road that would face this type of injustice. We want to fight this forward so that we will have the next generation the opportunity to face the trial in the same issue,” he said.

Attao said they are hoping to never get to this point again, but at least they need to set a precedent that they’re doing good for those coming after them.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) said she agrees with Attao’s statement. Sablan also clarified that this

impeachment is not just a political process, but also a legal process.

“It’s also a constitutional process. Impeachment is a remedy that the constitution provides to address egregious abuses of office,” she said.

The lawmaker said this whole investigation, this impeachment proceeding, and this trial that they hope will someday happen in the Senate were all precipitated by the governor’s own actions, his own misconduct and abuses of office.

Sablan said she and 14 others did their jobs and diligently reviewed the evidence and the facts and listened to the testimonies and voted the way they did. She said it’s up to the Senate to decide whether they will conduct a fair trial to the end.

Sablan is the Democratic Party’s candidate for governor in the Nov. 8 election. Torres is seeking re-election under the Republican Party. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is running also for governor as an independent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEILANI SABLAN

Leilani Sablan, University of Guam graduate biology student and UOG Sea Grant biologist, prepares to board Ocean Exploration Trust's exploration vessel Nautilus, on March 13 from Oahu, Hawaii.

## 'Once-in-a-lifetime' deep-sea research expedition

University of Guam graduate biology student and UOG Sea Grant biologist Leilani Sablan set sail into the Central Pacific on March 14 to take part in a deep-sea research expedition, joining a team of scientists, engineers, navigators, mappers, and remotely operated vehicle pilots.

Sablan was selected to be an ocean science intern on-board the exploration vessel Nautilus of the Ocean Exploration Trust—a nonprofit founded by Robert Ballard, a National Geographic Society explorer-at-large who is best known for his discovery of the Titanic in 1985, among many other significant shipwreck discoveries.

Sablan will be helping to log data at Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll within the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. These deep-water areas are within one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, according to the Ocean Exploration Trust.

"It's phenomenal to think I will be assisting in scientific exploration and discovery in Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll. These are some places I would never think I'd find myself—ever—in my life, and I feel this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Sablan said.

### A deeper look

Sablan's main responsibilities involve recording operational, scientific, and engineering observations; capturing ROV camera footage; and logging samples.

The crew of approximately 30 individuals seeks to accomplish 13 ROV dives to characterize seamount and ridge features, which will help determine if mesophotic areas result in greater biological diversity in comparison to deeper areas with same or similar features, Sablan said. The team also plans to compare specimens and video data to those of past expeditions in the region to help inform the identifica-

tion of dense and diverse deep-water coral and sponge communities.

### Opportunity for growth

Although deep-sea exploration is outside her field of study, said Sablan, who studies Guam's endangered green sea turtle population at UOG Sea Grant, she said this new experience will help her grow as a researcher and appreciate the different disciplines of marine science.

"Lani is a terrific student and researcher," said Peter Houk, UOG Marine Laboratory professor and academic adviser to Sablan. "[...] The Nautilus journey is about more than participation and assisting a great effort. It's also about personal growth, and I'm sure she'll benefit from the experience."

Fran Castro, associate director of UOG Sea Grant, who originally encouraged Sablan to apply, said it makes her proud to see students from Guam participating in these types of activities around the region.

"This at-sea venture is a great opportunity for up-and-coming scientists like Lani," Castro said. "She's a go-getter, and I'm glad she jumped at the chance to take this once-in-a-lifetime experience on how to live and work on research vessels."

UOG undergraduate biology student Pheona David will be the next intern to participate in an expedition onboard the Nautilus this month within the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

The expeditions can be followed at [www.facebook.com/nautiluslive](http://www.facebook.com/nautiluslive).

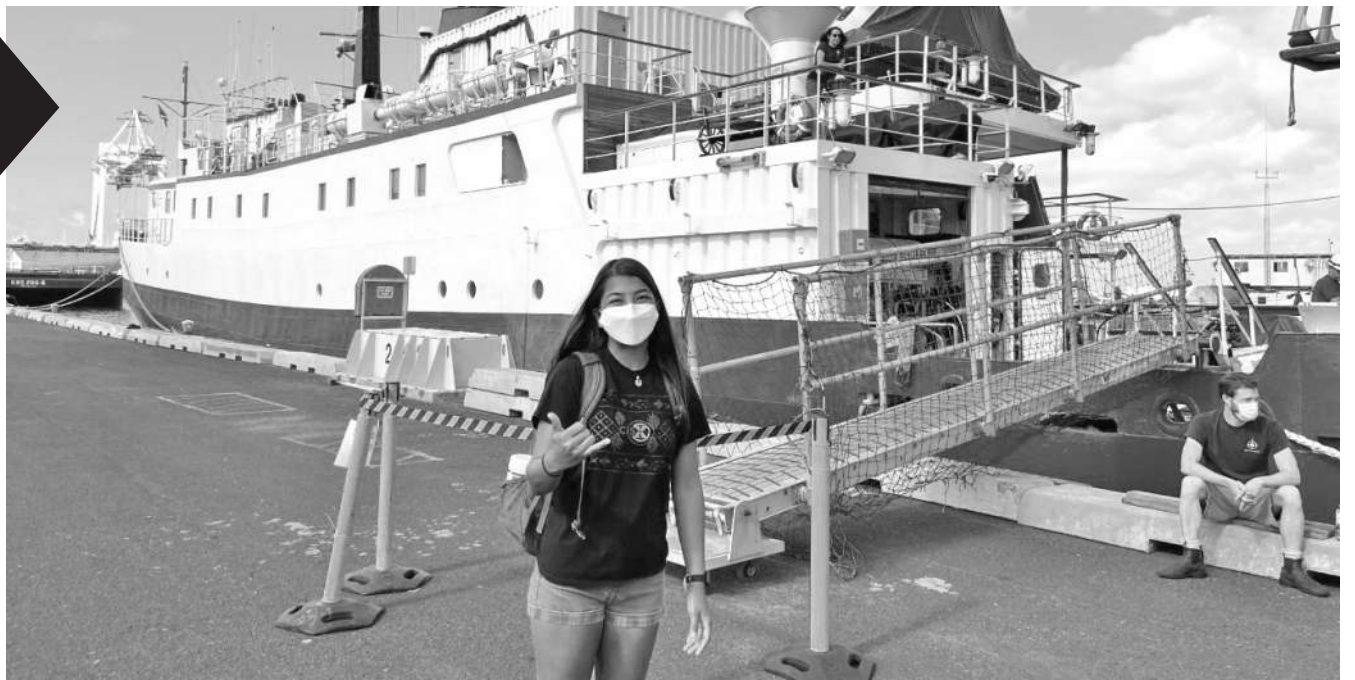
The Nautilus Science & Engineering Internship Program is open to undergraduate and graduate students through Ocean Exploration Trust as part of the Nautilus Exploration Program. It is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (PR)

## Water service Interruptions set

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers along in Capital Hill, Wireless Ridge, Papago, Talafofo and 1-Denni on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, from 8:30am. to 3pm.

This will allow CUC operations personnel to repair two

main service lateral leaks on Kwajalein Avenue on Capital Hill. For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area as the CUC operations crew will be working on the shoulder of Kwajalein Avenue on Capital Hill. (PR)



**18TH ANNUAL MAHT-MAHI DERBY**

**SATURDAY APRIL 9TH, 2022**

**6:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

**FRIDAY APRIL 8TH. REGISTRATION**

**FROM 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM, SMILING COVE MARINA**

**ENTRY: \$100.00 CAPT. & 1 CREW. \$25.00 FOR ADDITIONAL**

**1ST. PLACE \$2,000.00**

**2ND. PLACE \$1,500.00**

**3RD. PLACE 1,000.00**

**4TH. PLACE - IN-KIND**

**5TH. PLACE - IN-KIND**

**SAIPAN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**



# Fitch affirms CNMI Seaport Revs at 'BB'; outlook stable

Credit rating agency Fitch Ratings has affirmed the "BB" rating on approximately \$18.3 million of outstanding Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands senior series 1998A and 2005A seaport revenue bonds. The Rating Outlook is Stable.

The rating reflects the essentiality of the ports to a small, island economy amid high exposure to economic volatility from tourism and a nearly 100% import-based cargo operation. The rating also considers CPA's sustained revenue performance and history of controlled expenses. Despite recent adverse impacts on operational performance, CPA is expected to maintain financial metrics supportive of the current rating level.

Under Fitch's rating case scenario, coverage levels average 1.7x through the forecast period. CPA further benefits from robust liquidity levels that provide some mitigation to a prolonged softening of cargo demand.

## KEY RATING DRIVERS Concentrated but Vital Cargo Base - Revenue Risk (Volume): Weaker

The seaports remain essential for the import of goods to an island economy; however, there is potential for stagnant operational trends, due to CNMI's exposure to macroeconomic factors, and its elevated dependence on a limited tourist base. Volume stability is expected, given that food and fuel related cargos account for approximately

50% of import-dependent revenue tonnage.

## Limited Pricing Power - Revenue Risk (Price): Weaker

CNMI's narrow economy and exposure to economic volatility limit management's economic flexibility to raise rates on seaport system tenants and users. Following the last increase in 2009, the authority's focus has instead been on effective containment of operating expenses.

## Modest Capital Improvement Plan - Infrastructure Development & Renewal: Midrange

The ports once handled nearly twice as much cargo, and are in satisfactory condition to deal with current and forecasted demand. The authority's capital improvement

plan (CIP) is manageable and funded with grants and internally generated funds. No additional debt is anticipated in the near to medium term.

## Conservative Capital Structure - Debt Structure: Stronger

The authority maintains 100% fixed-rate, fully amortizing debt with a level debt service profile and a 2031 final maturity. Structural features and reserves are sufficient and consistent with other Fitch-rated ports.

## Financial Profile

CPA maintained favorable leverage and liquidity metrics offset by a modest coverage ratio of 1.4x in fiscal 2021 (unaudited). Estimated fiscal 2021 net debt-to-cash flow available for debt service is negative, reflecting cash balances exceeding debt outstanding. The CPA maintains strong balance sheet cash and reserves available for operating expenses, with days cash on hand currently exceeding 1,800. These liquidity and leverage metrics provide the CPA with some degree of flexibility to meet financial commitments in weak performing periods. Rating case coverages are expected to average 1.7x through the projection period.

ability to meet financial commitments in weak performing periods. Rating case coverages are expected to average 1.7x through the projection period.

## RATING SENSITIVITIES Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to negative rating action/downgrade:

■ A severely weakened underlying service area economy that results in the seaports' inability to maintain cargo levels at or near current levels for a sustained period;

■ Depressed debt service coverage levels resulting from declining operating revenues;

■ A shift in the seaports' balance sheet liquidity and financial flexibility resulting from changes in operating expense management or pricing power.

## Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to positive rating action/upgrade:

■ Given the ports' limited operating profile and significant exposure to local economic factors, positive rating migration is not anticipated

at present.

## BEST/WORST CASE RATING SCENARIO

International scale credit ratings of Sovereigns, Public Finance and Infrastructure issuers have a best-case rating upgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a positive direction) of three notches over a three-year rating horizon; and a worst-case rating downgrade scenario (defined as the 99th percentile of rating transitions, measured in a negative direction) of three notches over three years. The complete span of best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings for all rating categories ranges from 'AAA' to 'D'. Best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings are based on historical performance. For more information about the methodology used to determine sector-specific best- and worst-case scenario credit ratings, visit <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10111579>.

## CREDIT UPDATE

Revenue trends have been volatile in the past few years, attributed to the reduction in inbound revenue tonnage and damage from storms such as Super Typhoon Yutu that have passed through the CNMI, and also the pandemic. While the ports are located in an island economy with exposure to tourism, CPA also has a mix of non-operating revenues (grants and interest income) to help offset declines in operating revenue.

Seaport operations at all three ports (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) have continued throughout the pandemic. Although operations have not ceased, incoming revenue tonnage has remained depressed, resulting in a 18% decline in overall seaport revenues in estimated fiscal 2021 relative to 2019. Total tonnage in fiscal 2021 has recovered to 80% of pre-pandemic total tonnage in fiscal 2019. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### BOOKKEEPER (Local hire)

Agape Christian School is looking for a skilled Bookkeeper to maintain our financial records, including purchases, sales, receipts and payments.

The job duties include working closely with our school Office team to create and analyze financial reports and ensure legal requirements compliance, process accounts payable and receivable and manage invoices and tax payments. Our ideal candidate holds a Finance degree (preferably followed by accounting CPE courses) and is familiar with accounting software packages.

Interested candidate please call: (670) 9898570 or email: [accsaipan@gmail.com](mailto:accsaipan@gmail.com)



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) | Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Tels: (670) 233-9447  
233-9448  
233-9449  
233-9450  
Fax: (670) 234-9451

## AVAILABILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM March 31, 2022

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program made possible through the US Department of Treasury. The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 10% or \$400,000 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 90% or \$3,758,268, will be used for the following types of assistance for CNMI **homeowners**:

- 1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 2) Mortgage payment assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$20,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
- 4) Utilities/Broadband Assistance:
  - a. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquencies in utility payments)
  - b. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$1,500 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future utility payments)
  - c. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband service payments)
  - d. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$150 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future broadband service payments)

### Eligibility Criteria

#### Eligible Homeowners:

- Must be a resident of the CNMI
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least month delinquent) (for mortgage delinquency assistance)
- For those seeking insurance arrears assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

### Income Limits

FY 2021 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S. Median Income	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$79,900	\$85,050	\$90,500

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at (670) 234-6866

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"



## Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>  
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950  
E-mail Address: [mail@opacnmi.com](mailto:mail@opacnmi.com)  
Phone: (670) 322-6481 | Fax: (670) 322-7812

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: March 25, 2022 Closing Date: April 8, 2022

**POSITION:**  
AUDITOR I

**EXAMINATION NO.**  
OPA-22-001

For more information, please visit our website at [www.opacnmi.com](http://www.opacnmi.com) or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan. Applicants are required to complete the OPA Employment Application form.



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

## INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2022-003

(This ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

**BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME:** May 02, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

## BEACH ROAD REPAIR FROM MONSIGNOR GUERRERO ROAD INTERSECTION TO MICRO BEACH ROAD INTERSECTION

Project package will be available on **March 31, 2022**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is required for the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the NMHC Central Office Reception Counter in Garapan.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held via video teleconferencing on April 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m., local time (ChST) through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) by clicking on the "Procurement" menu tab and on the CDBG DR website at <https://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com/>. Failure to attend the Mandatory Pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Immediately after the Mandatory Pre-bid Conference, bidders are required to join the NMHC Personnel and its implementing partner to visit and examine the project site. Failure to attend the project site visit will be considered a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; email to [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) or fax to (670)234-9021, no later than 10:00 a.m. April 14, 2022.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors



THE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & DISABILITY NETWORK PARTNERS CELEBRATING THE

# 2022 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



This year's Proclamation and Champions Recognition Ceremony was dedicated to the Late Congressman Ivan Alafonso Blanco. In remembrance and appreciation of a man who was not only a leader, a statesman, a true diplomat and a dedicated public servant, but someone who dedicated his life to helping to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the CNMI.

The Council and its partners, once again celebrated some outstanding individuals who truly embodied what advocacy is all about. Please join us as we celebrate and honor members of our community that have dedicated their lives to helping and improving the lives of people with Developmental Disabilities.

## 2022 CHAMPIONS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

### Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Tiava To'omato

Tinian: Nora Aquino

### Community Member Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Hanna Igisaia,

Tinian: Charito Cristoria,

### Educator Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Donna Flores

Tinian: Maria Aguon

Rota: Elvira Mesngon

### Employer Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Northern Marianas College

Tinian: Tinian Mayor's Office

Rota: Northern Marianas College

### Family Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Chamiko Namauleg

Tinian: Lorina Sheena Atalig

### Legislative Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Congressman Angel A. Demapan

Tinian: Tinian Municipal Council

### Private Business Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Herman's Modern Bakery

Tinian: Sweet Fix

### Public Entity Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: NMC

Tinian: NMC-Tinian Campus

Rota: NMPASI

### Self-Advocate of the Year:

Saipan: Emeterio Fitial

Tinian: Felipe Aquino Jr.

### NMC-UCEDD-HEROES:

Saipan: Devonne P. Sablan

Tinian: Maggie Mae Atalig Palacios

## 2022 REHABILITATION COUNSELING STAFF APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION

Arlene Yamagata - Case Services Manager

Jane Tudela - VR Counselor

Rose Ichiuo - VR Counselor

Shana Iguel - VR Counselor

Rita Santos - Employment Specialist

Sherraine Flores - VR Counselor Aide

Elvira Seman - VR Counselor Aide

Ann Marie Marciano - Office Clerk

## DISABILITY NETWORK PARTNERS





# Opinion

Hafa Adair!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Is humanity doomed? That depends on us

By LAURA J. MARTIN, ERLE C. ELLIS and AGUSTÍN FUENTES  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Will birth rates doom humanity? Tech billionaire Elon Musk sounded an old alarm in December when he claimed that declining births are “one of the biggest risks to civilization.”

“Please look at the numbers,” he implored *The Wall Street Journal*’s CEO Council. “If people don’t have more children, civilization is going to crumble, mark my words.”

Such population doomsaying is not limited to billionaires. Paleontologist Henry Gee argued in November that our species is destined for extinction—and soon. Low genetic variation, declining fertility and habitat degradation imperil Homo sapiens, Gee claims, warning that “(t)here comes a time in the progress of any species, even ones that seem to be thriving, when extinction will be inevitable, no matter what they might do to avert it.”

Other prominent figures have naturalized doomsday—from the opposite direction. Stanford biologist Paul Ehrlich famously predicted that population growth would outpace food production in the 1970s, leading hundreds of millions to starve to death. Even today, some scientists and environmentalists fear that humans will exceed the planet’s carrying capacity and in doing so, destroy themselves.

These two predictions at first seem completely contradictory. Simultaneous fears of overpopulation and underpopulation cannot both be right. But they share a logic: that the apocalypse will result from the “natural laws” of population dynamics, rather than from political and economic decisions.

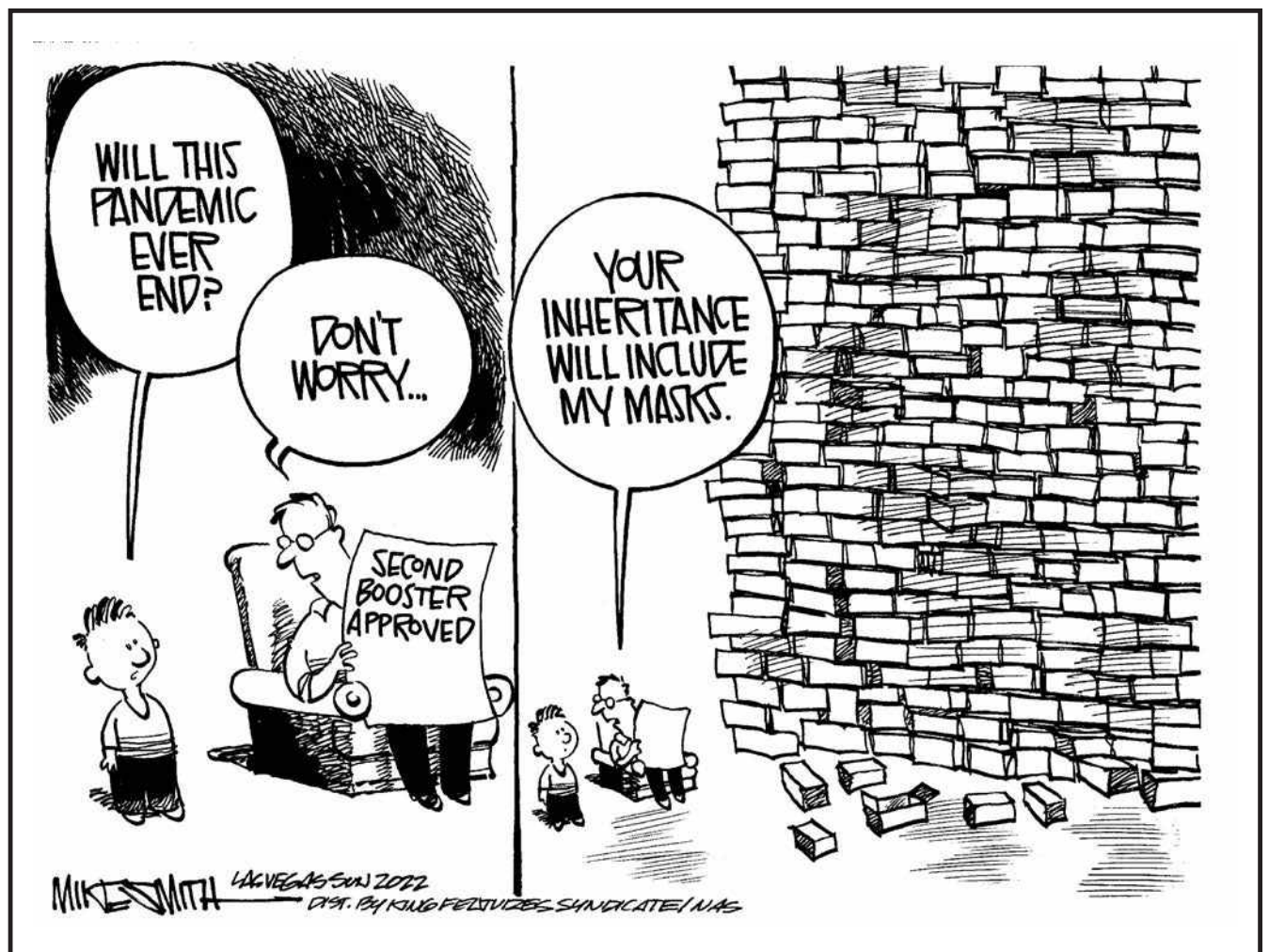
As ecologists and anthropologists who study human evolution and human relations with the planet, we are deeply troubled by the continued naturalization of doomsday—the narrative that suffering and societal collapse are the inevitable outcomes of evolutionary forces. This narrative invites political nihilism and disinvestment in the present. It denies our ability and responsibility to create a better and more just future.

Concerns about underpopulation reduce humanity to a pool of genetic resources and mistakenly assume that a species’ ability to survive comes from population size. On the contrary, our species has survived due to its diverse array of behavioral, ecological, creative and collaborative capacities driven by social learning—in other words, our cultures.

At the same time, concerns about overpopulation flatten political and cultural differences in how people relate to their environments. They mistakenly assume that overconsumption is guaranteed by natural selection rather than ad campaigns, governmental policies and economic structures. Greed and exploitation are not inevitable. As demonstrated by the classic work of Elinor Ostrom, a Los Angeles native and the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in economics, self-organized groups around the world have found ways to sustainably consume and manage natural resources.

Any claim about the “natural state” of the human species is deeply political, both in its account of humanity’s past

See HUMANITY on Next Page



## Why Putin unites extremists on left and right

Two old friends of mine once sat on opposite ends of the political spectrum. One used to be pro-American—a liberal Cold Warrior and defender of the Vietnam War. The other was very much in the leftist camp, a lifelong opponent of “American imperialism” and a committed anti-Zionist. Both are now keen promoters of Vladimir Putin’s propaganda: Ukraine is a U.S. puppet state dominated by Nazis, Putin is a man of peace, Russia must defend itself against a warmongering North Atlantic Treaty Organization and so forth.

One could easily dismiss their blog posts and YouTube performances as the rantings of bitter old men. But that won’t quite do. For their views echo those of prominent politicians on the far reaches of both left and right. And they are amplified in major media such as Fox News as well as, of course, on countless social media outlets well beyond the United States and Europe.

Until quite recently, far-right French presidential candidate Eric Zemmour called Putin a brave nationalist defending his country against NATO. “I would dream of a French Putin,” he once said. His far-left rival Jean-Luc Melenchon defended Russian atrocities in Syria and blamed NATO for the invasion of Ukraine.

Former President Donald Trump famously called Putin a “genius.” Tucker Carlson, the political showman of Fox News, described Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as an “obedient puppet of the ... State Department,” praised Putin as a defender of white Christian values and repeated Russian propaganda about U.S. biological warfare labs in Ukraine.

What possesses these parrots of Putin’s propaganda? For the most part, their defense of the indefensible has less to do with any real love for Putin or Russia than with domestic politics. Zemmour wants to be the French Putin. Melenchon wants France to leave NATO.

Carlson and his hero Trump hate President Joe Biden so much that they will defend his greatest enemy. In this, they resemble the America Firsters in the 1930s, who saw Franklin D. Roosevelt as a more dangerous enemy than Adolf Hitler. Those isolationists, too, felt the U.S. was being dragged into a foreign war—in their view, by liberals and Jews. The latter, in the words of Charles Lindbergh, posed a particular danger because of “their large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press, our radio and our government.”

Today, too, much pro-Putin rhetoric reflects loathing of what is seen as the grip of the “liberal elites” on media, finance and foreign affairs. In Europe, these elites are associated with the European Union bureaucracy, generous immigration policies and a tolerance of Islam. In the U.S., the main bugbears are the United

By IAN BURUMA  
Bloomberg Opinion

Ian Buruma is professor of human rights at Bard College. His latest book is *The Churchill Complex*.



Nations, anti-racist activists, immigrants and liberals who believe that the U.S. has a duty to fight for global freedom and democracy. In developing countries such as India, Putin backers resent being lectured by Western powers about human rights.

Even noxious ideas sometimes contain a kernel of truth. America’s catastrophic wars in the Middle East, touted by Republicans as well as hawkish Democrats as great battles for democracy, were dreadful mistakes. Poor Americans rightly resented the politicians who sent them to fight abroad. That helps explain why NATO, which once had bipartisan support, is now viewed on the Trumpist right with almost as much hostility as it is on the anti-imperialist left.

Yet the most important thing extremists on either side of the political spectrum have in common is a sense of deep self-pity. In their minds, they are always being “marginalized,” or dominated or threatened by a seemingly omnipotent establishment. In the U.S., inevitably, race plays a large role in such feelings, though for opposite reasons on the left and right. Left-wing activists are obsessed, not entirely without cause, with “white supremacy.” On the right, Carlson asks with a straight face: “Is [Putin] teaching my children to embrace racial discrimination?”

Both Putin and Trump like to portray themselves as victims—or, at least, as leaders who speak for the victims of liberal elites, arrogant internationalists, critical race theorists or people who fail to respect Russian or American “greatness.” It is this idea of victimhood that people, especially on the far right, identify with. Remember the degree to which Nazi propaganda was soaked in grievance: the treatment of Germany by the allied nations after World War I, the dominance of Jews who supposedly pulled all the strings of power. The first official heroes of the Nazi movement were “martyrs” who had died in street brawls with leftists.

Real victims exist, of course. But when powerful men exploit a fear of impotence to stoke popular anger, it becomes a dangerous force, for it is always bent on vengeance. When there is vengeance, there will always be blood.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## FSM President appeals to Solomons PM to reject security agreement with China

**P**ALIKIR, Pohnpei—Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo has appealed to Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare regarding the latter's proposed security agreement with the People's Republic of China.

In Panuelo's March 30, 2022, letter, he said it is the view of the FSM national government that such a novel and unprecedented security agreement between China and Solomon Islands poses a risk of increasing geopolitical tensions across the Blue Pacific Continent.

The text of the President's letter to Prime Minister Sogavare can be found in full below, and the letter to Solomon Islands can be found here: [https://gov.fm/files/Letter\\_to\\_T\\_H\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_Manasseh\\_Sogavare.pdf](https://gov.fm/files/Letter_to_T_H_Prime_Minister_Manasseh_Sogavare.pdf)

■ ■ ■

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare,

*Greetings from the Federated States of Micronesia! At the outset, I wish to emphasize my deepest respect to you, your office, and the people and government of Solomon Islands, and on behalf of the people and government of the Federated States of Micronesia, to express our collective well wishes for your people's health and prosperity. Allow me to also emphasize at the outset that our nation's broader foreign policy outlook—that we are a friend to all, and an enemy to none—is consistent with that of Solomon Islands.*

*Mr. Prime Minister, I write to you today as a fellow Pacific Islander and friend, and to humbly offer our government's perspective regarding a topic I'm sure you've been hearing ceaselessly about; that is, your government's forthcoming security agreement with the People's Republic of China.*

*The Federated States of Micronesia has grave security concerns about this proposed agreement because this agreement is entirely novel and unprecedented. Therefore, before you sign such an agreement, I would like to describe to you our own relationship with China, and what I fear the larger countries are privately preparing for:*

*The Federated States of Micronesia has had diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China since Sept. 11, 1989. We call our relationship the FSM-China Great Friendship. We have no loans with China, only grants; and the Chinese do not ask us to take loans. China always offers development assistance, but never insists on what development assistance might look like; when we ask for a ship, like the Hapilmohol-2, we get a ship, and when we ask for a government complex, like the Chuuk state government's campus, we get a government complex. Needless to say, economic and technical cooperation with China has been beneficial for our country and our people, and I am sure Solomon Islands is benefiting from a similar experience. The people and government of China are a friend to the people and government of the Federated States of Micronesia.*

*That said, you and I are both aware—and I think you'd agree that it can be plainly seen—that the U.S. and China are increasingly at odds with one another. This presents an issue—because the Federated States of Micronesia is a friend to the people and government of China, but we are also a sincere friend, even an ally, of the people and government of the United States of America.*

*Our ideal scenario in the Federated States of Micronesia is that China and the U.S., as well as Australia, Japan, New Zea-*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo from August 2019 shows the 18 leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, including Federated States of Micronesia President David Panuelo.

*land, and so many others, become friends with one another. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they could look past their fears and grievances and embrace each other as friends? Wouldn't it be terrific if they could see that the troubles of our times, such as climate change, require all of them working in concert instead of against each other?*

*That ideal scenario is my dream, and I share it through my addresses at the United Nations General Assembly and through media interviews, through press releases, and through casual conversation with the diplomatic corps based in our country. But a dreamer must also be practical, and in practice the countries we call friends are increasingly not acting very friendly with each other.*

*My fear is that we—the Pacific Islands—would be at the epicenter of a future confrontation between these major powers. It's not an impossible fear; it has happened before. Both the Federated States of Micronesia and Solomon Islands were the battlegrounds during World War II. I am confident that neither of us wishes to see a conflict of that scope or scale ever again, and most particularly in our own backyards, and most especially as we can see—from Russia's invasion of Ukraine—that the bigger countries will choose violence if they think it serves their interests, and without regard necessarily to our interests, such as our interest to not become collateral damage.*

*I imagine the following hypothetical scenario. The Federated States of Micronesia is currently negotiating its Compact of Free Association with the United States of America; meanwhile, China and Solomon Islands establish a close security partnership. The security partnership is a resounding success; Solomon Islands is wealthier from China's business investments, such as in the extractive resources sector; and Solomon Islands is secured from internal and external threats. But China fears the U.S. fortress to its east, and Australia fears the Chinese fortress to its north. What happens next?*

*I ask you, Prime Minister: is it within the realm of plausibility that, as more Pacific Islands seek security arrangements with*

*larger countries, that we could see a sovereign and peaceful Pacific become fragmented, and become tools for these larger countries' spheres of power and influence? And is it plausible that, once the spheres have been carved out, that our concerns about climate change—today's problem—would manifest into all-too-real concerns about a war in our backyards, with our people, our islands, as the playground for children playing as adults? Isn't it plausible that our islands could become collateral damage once again, such as we saw occur in Guadalcanal in your country, and Chuuk in my country, during World War II?*

*I would maintain that this possibility is all too plausible; and that compels me, despite my country's long friendship with China and our even longer enduring partnership with the United States, to appeal to you most respectfully to give your deepest consideration to the longer-range consequences for the entire Pacific Region, if not the entire world, that could well flow from a decision to host the establishment of a military presence by China in your country.*

*If any part of what I have written has given you pause, however briefly, then please feel empowered to reach out to me, and to the Pacific Islands Forum at large. As much as your bilateral security arrangement may be strictly a matter between your country and the People's Republic of China, its existence would absolutely affect all countries who call the Blue Pacific their home. The Federated States of Micronesia cannot endorse or agree if your decision is to proceed with a security relationship with the People's Republic of China, because of its far-reaching and grave security implications for our harmonious and peaceful Blue Pacific Continent.*

*Thank you, Prime Minister, for your kind attention to my lengthy letter. I say again for posterity that the people and government of the Federated States of Micronesia extend to you peace, friendship, cooperation, and love in our common humanity, and pledge that it is our goal that our two countries shall always share this friendship with each other as fellow brothers and sisters of the Pacific.*

## HUMANITY

From Page 8

and in its vision of the future. In his 2018 book "Enlightenment Now," cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker writes that poverty "needs no explanation. In a world governed by entropy and evolution, it is the default state of humankind." In this way, Pinker naturalizes poverty. Yet this view ignores that the world is governed by people, whose decisions—sometimes by design—create poverty, inequity and misery.

In an essay published last fall, Luke Kemp of the University of Cambridge's Center for the Study of Existential Risk argued that only a few institutions truly have the power to imperil humanity. Scholars of catastrophic risk point to climate change, nuclear weapons, bioweapons, autonomous weapons and mass surveillance as humanity's greatest existential threats. All of these are

the product of a small group of powerful industries dominated by a few actors, such as powerful CEOs and the U.S. government (which, for example, leads the world in spending on deadly autonomous weapons such as unmanned drones).

Climate change is a clear example of how decisions by small numbers of powerful humans, not population size, drive environmental degradation. The richest 1% of the world, about 63 million people, is responsible for more than twice as much greenhouse gas emissions as the 3.1 billion people who made up the poorest half of humanity. Just 20 fossil fuel companies can be directly linked to more than one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the modern era. Regulating population size, as some have recommended to lower emissions, would infringe on the liberties of billions of people while failing to ameliorate climate change.

In addition to the climate crisis, we live in a time of war, inequality, white supremacist violence, backlash against women's

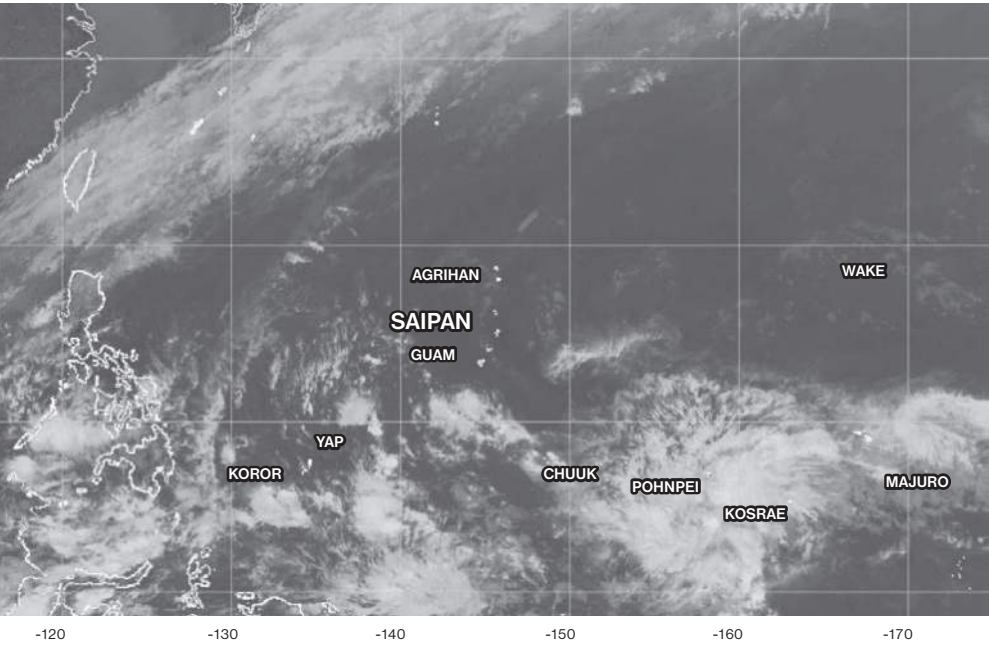
rights, technological upheaval and fraying social networks. None of these dire conditions is a biological or ecological inevitability. Nor is human extinction. To assert otherwise is to disavow responsibility for the policies and power structures that cause habitat degradation, income inequality and widespread injustice—conditions that already threaten the lives of countless people and other beings on this planet.

*Laura J. Martin is author of Wild by Design: The Rise of Ecological Restoration and an assistant professor of environmental studies at Williams College. Erle C. Ellis is a professor of geography and environmental systems at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and the author of Anthropocene: A Very Short Introduction. Agustín Fuentes is a professor of anthropology at Princeton University and the author of Why We Believe: Evolution and the Human Way of Being.*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	
86°	77°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows a few showers over the Marianas. East-trade winds prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F	
Palau	Cloudy	28 / 25 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F	
Kosrae	PM Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F	
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorm	29 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:52 AM	18:35 PM
Tuesday	05:52 AM	18:35 PM
Wednesday	05:51 AM	18:35 PM
Thursday	05:51 AM	18:35 PM
Friday	05:51 AM	18:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	08:02	21:04 PM	-
Tuesday	08:43	21:55 PM	-
Wednesday	09:26	22:48 PM	-
Thursday	10:12	23:04 PM	-
Friday	11:01	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	23 / 17 °F	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	23 / 9 °F	
Hong Kong	Sunny	22 / 18 °F	
Honolulu	Cloudy	27 / 21 °F	
London	Showers	15 / 10 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	22 / 13 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	35 / 27 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	20 / 14 °F	
Miami	Showers	28 / 23°F	
New York	Partly Cloudy	14 / 3 °F	
Osaka	AM Showers	13 / 4 °F	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	4 / 1 °F	
Busan	Sunny	13 / 7 °F	
Rome	Cloudy	16 / 5 °F	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	26 / 13 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	17 / 10 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	17 / 1 °F	
Tokyo	Rain	12 / 9 °F	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	15 / 7 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
03:40 AM	Low Tide	0.79	
09:03 AM	High Tide	1.79	
04:01 PM	Low Tide	0.11	
10:31 PM	High Tide	1.72	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
				OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily				
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily				
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM		TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable				
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable				
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily				
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# DOL resumes work registration for NAP participants

The CNMI Department of Labor announced Friday the resumption of the Work Registration Program for Nutrition Assistance Program participants effective April 1, 2022.

Through a memorandum of agreement between the CNMI Department of Labor and the Department of Community Cultural Affairs, the Work Registration Program was developed to assist unemployed adult NAP participants seek and gain employment.

CNMI DOL supervisor James Ulloa recently met with NAP administrator Walter Macaranas to formalize the resumption of the program. Under this arrangement, the

Nutrition Assistance Program will refer all adult NAP participants, who are not exempt from the work registration requirement, to the CNMI DOL's Division of Employment Services to engage in job referrals and job search activities such as résumé writing, email assistance, and training for job interviews.

Per the NAP requirements, all NAP participants between the ages of 18 and 54 years old who are physically and mentally fit to work are required to register in the CNMI DOL's Work Registration Program. NAP participants who remain active in the NAP program are required

to update their work registration every three months.

The Department of Labor further announces that NAP participants now have the option of engaging in the following activities in order to meet work registration and job referrals requirements:

■ **REQUIRED**—Participants who have not registered must register with the Department of Labor's website: [marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net)

■ NAP recipients already registered with [marianaslabor.net](http://marianaslabor.net) may update their job search status by referring themselves to positions they might qualify for in the Job Vacancy Announcement sec-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Department of Labor Employment Services staff Vivian Fleming assists a client with the NAP Work Registration Program.

ing the time frame they are required by NAP to update their status which is every three months. (The JVA site automatically records the date and time the participant responds to the JVA.)

■ NAP participants seeking assistance may visit the DES office on Capitol Hill, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1334.

NAP Participants may also contact the following DES staff for further assistance:

■ Alice Agulto (670) 664-3190; [albagulto.dol@gmail.com](mailto:albagulto.dol@gmail.com)

■ Manny Iguel (670) 664-3298; [manasesiguel@gmail.com](mailto:manasesiguel@gmail.com)

■ Vivian Fleming (670) 322-3293; [dolv Fleming@gmail.com](mailto:dolv Fleming@gmail.com)

■ Olinka Cabrera (670) 322-0996; [otcabrera.dol@gmail.com](mailto:otcabrera.dol@gmail.com) (PR)

## Nakoa meets island leaders in Palau, Guam

U.S. Department of the Interior's deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa traveled to Palau and Guam last week, where he met with President Surangel Whipps Jr. in Palau and Gov. Lourdes "Lou" Leon Guerrero in Guam, among other meetings. This trip marks Nakoa's first trip to these island areas since he assumed his role as deputy assistant secretary in the Biden-Harris administration and the first from Interior leadership since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am grateful to have had the ability to meet with our partners and colleagues in-person and on the ground in their respective island areas to learn and experience first-hand their unique circumstances, especially as we have important work to continue both with Palau and Guam," said Nakoa. "Key to the success of our work is the strength of our relationships and the ability to keep our channels of communication open and clear. This trip establishes the important connections we have with Palau and Guam and assures all the insular areas of our efforts to highlight their value and importance to the American family. I appreciate the warm welcome I received from [Whipps] and [Leon Guerrero] during this productive trip. I look forward to visiting the rest of the insular areas in-person soon."

In Palau, Nakoa also met with vice president Uduch Sengebau, Foreign Minister Gustav Aitaro, Finance Minister Caleb Udoi, Minister of Health and Human Services Gaafar Uherbelau, and other ministers in the President's Cabinet. Nakoa also met with U.S. Ambassador to the Palau John Hennessey-Niland, U.S. military senior defense liaison lead Capt. John Sullivan and others on the U.S. Embassy

team. Sites visited by Nakoa while in Palau included the Belau National Hospital, National and State Parks, and the Belau National Museum, among others.

In Guam Nakoa also met with Rear



Nakoa

Adm. Benjamin R. Nicholson, commander, Joint Region Marianas and other Department of Defense leaders. He also visited projects and sites supported with Office of Insular Affairs funding. (PR)

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### Earhart, LLC

Suite 208, DHL Building, Middle Road  
P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950

### Accountant

#### Job Duties:

Prepare, review, and analyze financial statements or other accounting records for accuracy, completeness, consistency and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and other standard accounting procedures. Maintain an accurate and complete record of receipts, disbursements, income, and expenses utilizing the company's accounting software. Calculate taxes owed. Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual tax returns, including but not limited to, monthly business gross receipts tax, estimated tax, employer's quarterly withholding tax, 941-SS employer's quarterly federal tax, W-2 wage and tax statement, W-3SS transmittal of wage and tax statements, annual reconciliation of withholding taxes withheld, corporate income tax, ensuring adherence to requirements for payment, filing, and reporting with the federal and local tax government agencies. Prepare checklist for new clients and review accounting engagement tasks. Review billable and non-billable expenses including adjustments to ensure that the coding of billing and expenses are accurate within established practices. Prepare and analyze client's billing and respond to inquiries regarding billing issues and problems. Review check requisitions ensuring validity of transactions, proper authorization and supporting documentation and general ledger coding consistent with company's prescribed policies and procedures for financial operations. Review and calculate employees time record. Maintain and administer payroll data. Provide analytical review of income and operating expenditures by performing periodic reconciliation of accounts. Prepare ad hoc reports and analysis as requested by the management. Perform other duties as required and assigned.

#### Location of Employment: Saipan

Applicants for this position must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy with 60 months work experience as an Accountant. Interested applicants should send their application and resume to the employer (by mail: P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950; by email: [Where\\_Is\\_Amelia@hotmail.com](mailto:Where_Is_Amelia@hotmail.com)).

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

### INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB22-DPW-42200091

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 04, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

## "CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

### Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Program include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our office on Capitol Hill, Building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas, and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

#### Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2021: \$194,475.00

The available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement programs, Prosecution and Court programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and Community Corrections programs, Drug Treatment and Enforcement programs; Planning, Evaluation, and Technology Improvement programs; and Crime Victim and Witness programs (other than compensation).

#### Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Formula Program: FY2021: \$339,975.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

#### Amounts Available:

Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$299,975.00

Underserved Crime Victims: \$40,000.00

#### STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program (VAWA) FY2021: \$556,704.00

STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan," STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Allotted agencies mentioned below must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services:** Victim Services = \$129,155.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$37,856.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,011.00.
- Law Enforcement** \$115,516.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$23,660.00. Total for Law Enforcement: \$139,176.00
- Prosecution** \$115,516.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault purpose only = \$23,660.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,176.00.
- Courts** \$18,371.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$9,464.00. Total for Courts \$27,835.00.
- Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas. \$83,506.00

#### Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2021: \$65,562.00

The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault. This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

**All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 P.M. Friday, April 22, 2022.  
No application will be accepted after the deadline.**

#### For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:

Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing [ztainanao.cjpa@gmail.com](mailto:ztainanao.cjpa@gmail.com), including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

/s/ Hon. Alexandro C. Castro  
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Zerlyn A. Taimanao  
Executive Director, CJPA



## Business

# NHTSA: New cars must average 40 mpg by 2026



AP

GMC pick-up trucks are lined up on the sales lot at the Albrecht Auto Group dealership, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in Wakefield, Mass.

**DETROIT (AP)**—New vehicles sold in the U.S. will have to average at least 40 miles per gallon of gasoline in 2026, up from about 28 mpg, under new federal rules unveiled Friday that undo a rollback of standards enacted under President Donald Trump.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said its new fuel economy requirements are the strongest to date and the maximum the industry can achieve over the time period. They will reduce gasoline consumption by more than 220 billion gallons over the life of vehicles, compared with the Trump standards.

They're expected to decrease carbon dioxide emissions—but not as much as some environmentalists want—and raise new vehicle prices in an industry already pressed by inflation and supply chain issues.

For the current model year, standards enacted under Trump require the fleet of new vehicles to get just under 28 miles per gallon in real-world driving. The new requirements increase gas mileage by 8% per year for model years 2024 and 2025 and 10% in the 2026 model year.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, whose department includes NHTSA, said the rules also will help strengthen national security by making the country less dependent on foreign oil and less vulnerable to volatile gasoline prices. Gasoline nationwide has spiked to an average of more than \$4.22 per gallon, with much of the increase coming since Russia, a major oil producer, invaded Ukraine in late February. It cost \$2.88 per gallon just a year ago, according to AAA.

Gas prices also have helped

to fuel inflation to a 40-year high, eating up household budgets and hitting President Joe Biden's approval ratings.

"Transportation is the second-largest cost for American families, only behind housing," Buttigieg said. The new standards, he said, will help keep the U.S. more secure and preserve "the freedom of our country to chart its future without being subject to other countries and to the decisions that are being made in the boardrooms of energy companies."

But auto dealers say more stringent requirements drive up prices and push people out of an already expensive new-car market. NHTSA projects that the new rules will raise the price of a new vehicle in the 2029 model year by \$1,087.

Trump's administration rolled back fuel economy standards, allowing them to rise 1.5% per year, which environmental groups said was inadequate to limit planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change. The standards had been rising about 5% per year previously.

But the new standards won't immediately match those adopted through 2025 under President Barack Obama. NHTSA officials said they will equal the Obama standards by 2025 and slightly exceed them for the 2026 model year.

The Obama-era standards automatically adjusted for changes in the type of vehicles people are buying. When they were enacted in 2012, 51% of new vehicle sales were cars and 49% SUVs and trucks. Last year, 77% of new vehicle sales were SUVs and trucks, which generally are less effi-

cient than cars.

Some environmental groups said the new requirements from NHTSA under Biden don't go far enough to fight global warming. Others supported the new standards as a big step toward reducing emissions, with the American Lung Association calling for even stronger standards to drive a transition to all new vehicles having zero-emissions by 2035.

"Climate change has gotten much worse, but these rules only require automakers to reduce gas-guzzling slightly more than they agreed to cut nine years ago," said Dan Becker, director of the Safe Climate Transport Center at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Officials said that under the new standards, owners would save about \$1,400 in gasoline costs during the lifetime of a 2029 model year vehicle. Carbon dioxide emissions would drop by 2.5 billion metric tons by 2050 under the standards, the NHTSA said.

Automakers are investing billions of dollars to develop and build electric vehicles but say government support is needed to get people to buy them. The companies want government tax credits to reduce prices as well as more money for EV charging stations to ease anxiety over running out of juice.

John Bozzella, CEO of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a large industry trade group, said increased regulations will require supportive government policies. Regulators should consider safety, consumer buying preferences, improved fuel economy and the transition to electric vehicles, he said in a statement.

» Up from 28 mpg

## Nation

# Video contrasts police story on use of stun gun on Black man

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—A Tennessee police officer who used his stun gun on a DoorDash driver wrote an arrest report saying the man had become argumentative while denying he was speeding, refused to hand over identifying information, demanded to see a supervisor and stayed in his car when ordered to get out.

The driver—who faces charges of speeding, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct based on the officer's sworn affidavit—pressed record on his phone after he was pulled over. That recording, made public by the driver's attorney, tells a different story.

It shows Delane Gordon

holding his driver's license as Collegedale Police Officer Evan Driskill stands with his taser in a firing position. "He said he pulled me over for a traffic violation and he's gonna Tase me. You can't do that officer because I called for your supervisor," Gordon says.

The white officer repeatedly shouts "get out!" at Gordon, who is Black.

"I have my license. What is the reason?" Gordon asks.

"You refused to give your information. I told you to get out of the car. Now you're resisting. Get out!" the officer says, pointing the stun gun closer to Gordon's body.

"Sir, I feel uncomfortable, please get your super-

visor," Gordon pleads, at which point Driskill holsters the Taser and grabs him with both hands, trying to pull him down through the open door. "I don't give a (expletive) what you feel like. I said get out," the officer says.

"Why are you being like this," Gordon asks while being grabbed. "Is this how y'all really are?"

The officer then steps back and fires his stun gun. "Oh my God, that's not lawful sir. That's not lawful," Gordon says after crying out as he felt the jolt. The video released by his lawyer ends as Gordon reaches for the phone and his left leg swings toward the open door.



## ACROSS THE NATION

### Police: 1 killed, 2 wounded in shooting at Virginia mall

**NORFOLK, Va.** (AP)—A man was killed and two women were wounded in a shooting at a Virginia mall Saturday evening, police said. Norfolk police were called to MacArthur Center around 6:25 p.m., the department said in a news release. The women, who were shot in their ankles, were taken to a hospital with injuries that weren't believed to be life-threatening. Police Chief Larry Boone told news outlets that the shooting was prompted by an argument over money, and that he believed the male victim and the suspect were related. Boone said he didn't know if the two women had any relationship to the shooter or the man who was killed. The victims' names weren't immediately released. Several area roads were blocked off as authorities investigated. Police shared photos later Saturday night of a suspect and a person of interest, asking for the public's help in identifying them.

### Biden says sub he commissioned will enhance US security

**WILMINGTON, Del.** (AP)—In a public ceremony delayed two years by the pandemic, President Joe Biden on Saturday commissioned the USS Delaware, a nuclear attack submarine, saying it would enhance national security, though he made no reference to the global turmoil from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "As the commander in chief, I believe it is our sacred obli-

gation as a nation to prepare and equip those troops that we send into harm's way and to care for them and their families when they return home," he told a crowd of invited guests and dignitaries assembled on a sunny but chilly spring day on a restricted part of the dock in Wilmington. This latest Navy ship to carry the Delaware name, the president said in brief remarks, "is part of a long tradition of serving our nation proudly and strengthening our nation's security ... not just us, but our allies and partners around the world as well. In fact it's already been doing that for some time."

### US sends home Algerian held nearly 20 years at Guantanamo

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—An Algerian man imprisoned at the Guantanamo Bay detention center for nearly 20 years has been released and sent back to his homeland. The Department of Defense announced Saturday that Sufyan Barhoumi was repatriated with assurances from the Algerian government that he would be treated humanely there and that security measures would be imposed to reduce the risk that he could pose a threat in the future. The Pentagon did not provide details about those security measures, which could include restrictions on travel. Barhoumi was captured in Pakistan and taken to the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2002. The United States eventually determined he was involved with various extremist groups but was not a member of al-Qaida or

the Taliban, according to a report by a review board at the prison that approved him for release in 2016. U.S. authorities attempted to prosecute Barhoumi in 2008 but the effort was dropped amid legal challenges to the initial version of the military commission system set up under President George W. Bush.

### Alaska's leadership lauds late congressman at memorial

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Members of Alaska's political leadership lauded the late U.S. Rep. Don Young Saturday at a public memorial to celebrate his life. Young, who was the longest-serving Republican in the history of the U.S. House, died March 19. He was 88. "Don was one who could not only count the years in his life, but he could count the life in his years. He lived a great life, it was full. He lived those 88 years to the fullest," U.S. Rep. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said at the memorial in Anchorage Baptist Temple. According to Alaska's News Source, Murkowski noted that Young was only the 43rd American citizen to have been given the privilege to lie in state at the Capitol, calling it the highest tribute a member of Congress can have. "I learned very early on you never ever underestimate Don Young, for Don never forgot where he came from," Murkowski said. "Don Young was a man of the people, and he built relationships that endured because they were honest, they were true, and he was loyal."



# Asia

## US investigators fly to China to assist in plane crash probe

**BEIJING (AP)**—U.S. accident investigators arrived in China on Saturday to help authorities look for clues into what caused last month's crash of a Boeing jetliner with 132 people aboard.

The seven-member team from the National Transportation Safety Board will participate in the Civil Aviation Administration of China's investigation of the March 21 crash of a China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 because the aircraft was manufactured in the U.S.

As part of that assistance, the plane's cockpit voice recorder is being downloaded

and analyzed at a U.S. lab in Washington, federal officials said Friday.

Investigators hope the recording will explain why the plane went into a nosedive from about 8,800 meters (29,000 feet) over a mountainous region in southeastern China.

Chinese officials have said that air traffic controllers were unable to get a response from the pilots while the plane was descending.

The cockpit voice recorder would pick up voices and other sounds from microphones worn by the pilots and another stationed over their heads.

Searchers also recovered

the plane's flight-data recorder, which constantly captures speed, altitude, heading and other information and the performance of key systems on the aircraft, but that recorder was not being evaluated in Washington on Friday.

The NTSB said its investigators will limit contact with people outside the investigation so that they can start their work immediately without going through a quarantine period.

The plane that crashed was not a 737 Max, a newer model that was temporarily grounded worldwide following two deadly crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

## Hong Kong urges testing, Shanghai struggles under lockdown

**BEIJING (AP)**—Hong Kong authorities on Saturday asked the entire population of more than 7.4 million people to voluntarily test themselves for COVID-19 at home for three days in a row starting next week.

The announcement by Chief Executive Carrie Lam came as the southern Chinese city is struggling to contain its worst outbreak with authorities sending mixed signals about testing and lockdowns.

Lam said a "compulsory, universal test" of the whole population is still essential, but did not say when that might happen. Authorities shelved the idea after a previous announcement caused panic buying.

The prospect of further school closures and other disruptions has the government caught between calls for loosening restrictions and Beijing's demand for an extreme "zero-COVID" approach mandating lockdowns and mass testing.

Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous territory, on Friday lifted



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, left, holds a package of coronavirus prevention materials to be delivered to people during an anti-epidemic event in Hong Kong, Saturday, April 2, 2022.

a ban on residents returning aboard flights from nine countries where COVID-19 cases have surged, including Britain and the U.S.

Hong Kong reported another 5,820 cases Friday as the latest surge begins to taper off.

Meanwhile, in Shanghai to the north, authorities are struggling to meet requirements for a lockdown on many of the

city's 26 million residents—the largest such undertaking by China since the virus was first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Shanghai is implementing a two-stage, eight-day lockdown, but many of those on the eastern, or Pudong, side of the city who should have been free to leave their compounds on Friday have remained in isolation.

## Sri Lankan president declares curfew to preempt protests

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**—Sri Lanka imposed a countrywide curfew starting Saturday evening until Monday morning, in addition to a state of emergency declared by the president, in an attempt to prevent more protests blaming the government for the worsening economic crisis.

The government's information head Mohan Samaranayake said that the curfew is being imposed under powers vested with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He drew the ire of protesters who called for his resignation outside his residence on Thursday night, leading to police firing tear gas

and arresting scores of people.

"The curfew is an attempt to shut the people up," said Ruki Fernando, a human rights activist who headed to a protest in the capital, Colombo, which dispersed early after the curfew came into force.

"I don't know why a curfew has been declared. What we need now is not a curfew, we need food, gas, fuel and the freedom to express ourselves," Fernando said.

Rajapaksa assumed emergency powers on midnight Friday amid widespread calls for protests throughout the country on Sunday, as anger over shortages of essential foods, fuel and long power

cuts boiled over this week.

Sri Lanka faces huge debt obligations and dwindling foreign reserves, and its struggle to pay for imports has caused a lack of basic supplies. People wait in long lines for gas, and power is cut for several hours daily because there's not enough fuel to operate power plants and dry weather has sapped hydropower capacity.

The island nation's economic woes date back a failure of successive governments to diversify exports, instead relying on traditional cash sources like tea, garments and tourism, and on a culture of consuming imported goods.

# World

## Ukrainian forces retake areas near Kyiv amid fear of traps



Ukrainian servicemen climb on a fighting vehicle outside Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, April 2, 2022.

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—Ukrainian troops moved cautiously to retake territory north of the country's capital on Saturday, using cables to pull the bodies of civilians off streets of one town out of fear that Russian forces may have left them booby-trapped.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that departing Russian troops were creating a "catastrophic" situation for civilians by leaving mines around homes, abandoned equipment and "even the bodies of those killed." His claims could not be independently verified.

Associated Press journalists in Bucha, a suburb northwest of Kyiv, watched as Ukrainian soldiers backed by a column of tanks and other armored vehicles used cables to drag bodies off of

a street from a distance. Locals said the dead—the AP counted at least six—were civilians killed without provocation by departing Russian soldiers.

"Those people were just walking and they shot them without any reason. Bang," said a Bucha resident who declined to give his name citing safety reasons. "In the next neighborhood, Stekolka, it was even worse. They would shoot without asking any question."

Ukraine and its Western allies reported mounting evidence of Russia withdrawing its forces from around Kyiv and building its troop strength in eastern Ukraine.

The visible shift did not mean the country faced a reprieve from more than five weeks of war or that the more

than 4 million refugees who have fled Ukraine will return soon. Zelenskyy said he expects departed towns to endure missile and rocket strikes from afar and for the battle in the east to be intense.

In his nightly video address Saturday, the Ukrainian leader said the country's troops were not allowing the Russians to retreat without a fight. "They are shelling them. They are destroying everyone they can."

Russia, Zelenskyy said, has ample forces to put more pressure on Ukraine's east and south.

"What is the goal of the Russian troops? They want to seize the Donbas and the south of Ukraine," he said. "What is our goal? To defend ourselves, our freedom, our land and our people."

## Ramadan kicks off in much of Middle East

**CAIRO (AP)**—The Muslim holy month of Ramadan—when the faithful fast from dawn to dusk—began at sunrise Saturday in much of the Middle East, where Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent energy and food prices soaring.

The conflict cast a pall over Ramadan, when large gatherings over meals and family celebrations are a tradition. Many in the Southeast Asian nation of Indonesia planned to start observing Sunday, and some Shiites in Lebanon, Iran and Iraq were also marking the start of Ramadan a day later.

Muslims follow a lunar calendar and a moon-sighting methodology can lead to different countries declaring the start of Ramadan a day or two apart.

Muslim-majority nations

including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates had declared the month would begin Saturday morning.

A Saudi statement Friday was broadcast on the kingdom's state-run Saudi TV and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and de facto leader of the United Arab Emirates, congratulated Muslims on Ramadan's arrival.

Jordan, a predominantly Sunni country, also said the first day of Ramadan would be on Sunday, in a break from following Saudi Arabia. The kingdom said the Islamic religious authority was unable to spot the crescent moon indicating the beginning of the month.

Indonesia's second-largest Islamic group, Muhammadiyah,

which counts more than 60 million members, said that according to its astronomical calculations Ramadan begins Saturday. But the country's religious affairs minister had announced Friday that Ramadan would start on Sunday, after Islamic astronomers in the country failed to sight the new moon.

It wasn't the first time the Muhammadiyah has offered a differing opinion on the matter, but most Indonesians—Muslims comprise nearly 90% of the country's 270 million people—are expected to follow the government's official date.

Many had hoped for a more cheerful Ramadan after the coronavirus pandemic blocked the world's 2 billion Muslims from many rituals the past two years.



# Health & Wellness

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## Who really needs a second COVID booster? Here's what to know

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many Americans now can get a second COVID-19 booster, but it's hard to tell who really needs another shot right now and who could wait.

The Food and Drug Administration authorized extra Pfizer or Moderna shots for anyone 50 or older and for some younger people with severely weakened immune systems. It's an effort to get ahead of a possible next coronavirus surge.

With COVID-19 cases low in the U.S., it's easy to ignore calls for another dose—or for those who aren't yet vaccinated or boosted to get up to date, said Dr. Erica Johnson, an infectious disease specialist at the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Her advice: If you're on the fence, use this lull to talk with your doctor about how protected you really are—and need to be.

### Who is eligible for a second booster?

Anyone 50 and older can get the extra dose at least four months after their last vaccination. So can severely immune-compromised patients, such as organ transplant recipients, as young as 12. Adults can choose either the Pfizer or the Moderna vaccine for their extra shot, but Pfizer is the only option for children.

### What about people who got Johnson & Johnson?

Adults who received J&J's



Vials for the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are seen at a temporary clinic in Exeter, N.H. on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021. AP

single-dose vaccine already were eligible for a booster of any kind -- and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends only some of them get another.

A new study found a Moderna or Pfizer second shot was superior to getting a second J&J dose. So the advice is anyone who got a second J&J shot now can choose a Moderna or Pfizer dose.

But if they already had one of those other boosters, the CDC says only those who meet the newest criteria -- age or weak immune system—qualify for another.

### What prompted the move?

Vaccines still offer strong protection against severe illness and death, but effectiveness against milder infections wanes months later. The shots also don't work as well against new variants like the super-contagious omicron mutant as they did earlier in the pandemic.

That's why everyone 12 and

at fending off omicron. Only about half of those eligible have.

With an omicron sibling causing spikes in infections in other countries, officials are nervous the U.S. is next, prompting efforts to offer extra protection to the most vulnerable.

### What's the evidence for another booster?

Many scientists say it's limited, leaving public health officials to use their best judgment.

During the U.S. omicron wave, two Pfizer or Moderna doses plus a booster were 94% effective against death or needing a ventilator, according to a recent CDC study. That protection was lowest—74%—in immune-compromised people, although most hadn't gotten the already recommended third dose.

Israel began offering people 60 and older a second booster during its omicron surge. Preliminary findings posted online last week show there were fewer deaths among people who chose another booster compared to those who skipped the fourth dose.

The FDA decided to set the age limit at 50 instead of 60 because that's when chronic illnesses like heart disease or diabetes become more common, leaving people more vulnerable to serious COVID-19.

### Who really needs a second booster?

The CDC says an extra shot is an option—but those most likely to benefit are those most vulnerable to severe disease, including people 65 and older and 50-somethings who have multiple health problems.

### When should I get it?

Again, experts have differing opinions, partly because it's not clear how long any extra benefit lasts.

“We can never really perfectly time when the next

wave is, or when someone might encounter infection,” said Johnson, who sees patients at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. “To be as ready as possible, I think everyone just needs to stay as up to date as possible with their vaccines.”

Another dose now may make sense for older people and the immune-compromised, but “there's less urgency in an otherwise healthy person,” said University of Pennsylvania immunologist E. John Wherry.

At 50, Wherry said he's healthy enough to watch if cases rise enough to prompt another booster, but he'd prefer to wait until fall. That's because going longer between vaccinations allows the immune response to better mature and strengthen.

## A broccoli a day keeps COVID (and colds) away? Researchers are looking into it

By MEREDITH COHN  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

BALTIMORE—Your mom was right: Eat your vegetables!

Vegetables have long been a mainstay of a healthy diet, but there may be one more reason to eat your greens. They may stave off a bad COVID-19 infection.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins Children's Center found that a chemical compound called sulforaphane found in abundance in broccoli cabbage, kale and Brussels sprouts might slow growth of coronaviruses such as those that cause COVID-19 and the common cold.

At the start of the pandemic, the researchers began looking for potential treatments for the virus when they came across the compound. They haven't tested it in humans yet, but in cells and mice they found sulforaphane was a promising weapon against severe disease because it interferes with virus replication. That's how the virus spreads in the body.



Broccoli and Brussels sprouts.

(DREAMSTIME/TNS)

“I was screening multiple compounds for anti-coronavirus activity and decided to try sulforaphane since it has shown modest activity against other microbial agents that we study,” said Lori Jones-Brando, a Hopkins Children's Center microbiologist and senior author of a paper recently published on the findings in the *Nature* journal *Communications Biology*.

This isn't the first time health researchers have looked at greens for more than just a healthy gut. Other Hopkins

researchers have been looking into using the compound to prevent or treat breast cancer after discovering there was some anti-cancer benefit to sulforaphane decades ago.

The compound is especially alluring because it's not hard to find. The veggies, plus supplements made from the greens, are readily found in stores with no prescription—though the researchers warn against rushing out to buy supplements just yet, as their work is early and the supplements are

generally unregulated by the government.

They'll continue testing the compound for its COVID-19 potential and plan to study the effects in humans.

In studies so far, the research team exposed cells to sulforaphane one to two hours before infecting the cells with the coronaviruses. It reduced replication of a half dozen types of the virus by 50%. That included the delta and omicron variants and the common cold virus.

They also found a similar result when they exposed cells to the compound after the virus.

Same for the results when they lowered the dosage of sulforaphane but combined it with a low dose of remdesivir, an antiviral medication that has been found to shorten recovery times for those hospitalized with COVID-19.

Another benefit of sulforaphane is that it decreases inflammation in the lungs, a potentially deadly immune response to COVID-19.

## CONSUMER HEALTH Understanding kidney cancer

By LAUREL KELLY  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

March is National Kidney Month, which makes this a good time to learn about kidney cancer.

Kidney cancer is cancer that begins in the kidneys, which are two bean-shaped organs, each about the size of your fist. They're behind your abdominal organs, with one kidney on each side of your spine. The kidneys remove waste from your blood and regulate a healthy balance between water, sodium and minerals in your bloodstream.

Approximately 79,000 new

cases of kidney cancer—50,290 in men and 28,710 in women—will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year, and 13,920 people—8,960 men and 4,960 women—will die from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

There may be no signs or symptoms early in the disease. In time, signs and symptoms of kidney cancer can develop, including:

- Blood in your urine, which may appear pink-, red- or cola-colored.
- Pain in your back or side that doesn't go away.
- Loss of appetite.

- Unexplained weight loss.
- Tiredness.
- Fever.

Factors that can increase the risk of kidney cancer include older age, smoking, obesity, high blood pressure, treatment for kidney failure, certain inherited syndromes and a family history of kidney cancer.

Treatment for kidney cancer usually begins with surgery to remove the cancer. For cancers confined to the kidney, this may be the only treatment needed. If the cancer has spread beyond the kidney, additional treatments may be recommended.

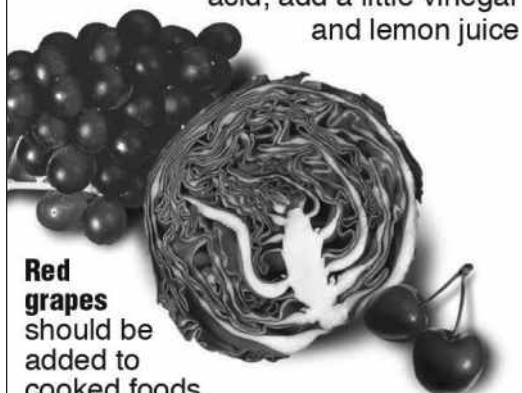
Small kidney cancers are sometimes destroyed using nonsurgical treatments, such as heat and cold. These procedures may be an option in certain situations, such as in people with other health problems that make surgery risky.

Kidney cancer that comes back after treatment and kidney cancer that spreads to other parts of the body may not be curable. Treatments may help control the cancer and keep you comfortable. In these situations, treatments may include surgery, targeted therapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy.

### Healthy Living Keeping red food red

Red plant pigments – often valuable antioxidants – can fade or turn color if the food is not handled properly.

Red cabbage turns blue if it is sauteed without acid; add a little vinegar and lemon juice



Red grapes should be added to cooked foods, especially sauces, at the last moment

Cherries turn blue in muffins; keep the batter acidic by adding buttermilk or soda

© 2014 MCT  
Source: Shirley Corriher, Home and Garden Television, MCT Photo Service



# Life & Style

## Will Smith resigns from film academy over Chris Rock slap

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Smith resigned Friday from the motion picture academy following his Oscars night slap of Chris Rock and said he would accept any further punishment the organization imposed.

Smith in a statement released Friday afternoon said he will “fully accept any and all consequences for my conduct. My actions at the 94th Academy Awards presentation were shocking, painful, and inexcusable.”

Film academy president Da-

vid Rubin said Smith’s resignation was accepted. “We will continue to move forward with our disciplinary proceedings against Mr. Smith for violations of the Academy’s Standards of Conduct, in advance of our next scheduled board meeting on April 18.”

Smith loses voting privileges with his resignation. But there are other, less tangible benefits to being part of the academy, Hollywood’s most prestigious organization: It bestows in-

dustry credibility on its members. It’s invitation only, and with a once-a-year membership review.

“I betrayed the trust of the Academy. I deprived other nominees and winners of their opportunity to celebrate and be celebrated for their extraordinary work,” Smith’s statement said. “I am heartbroken. I want to put the focus back on those who deserve attention for their achievements and allow the Academy to get back to the in-

credible work it does to support creativity and artistry in film.

“Change takes time and I am committed to doing the work to ensure that I never again allow violence to overtake reason,” Smith concluded in the statement.

The resignation came two days after the academy’s leadership board met to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Smith for violations against the group’s standards of conduct. Those proceedings could

have resulted in suspension or expulsion, and it was not immediately clear what additional punishment he could face.

Had he been expelled, Smith would have joined a small group of men removed from the academy: Harvey Weinstein, Roman Polanski, Bill Cosby and the actor Carmine Caridi, who was kicked out for sharing awards screeners.

On Sunday, Smith strode from his front-row Dolby Theatre seat on to the stage and

smacked Rock, who had made a joke at the expense of Smith’s wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Moments later, he went on to win the best actor award for his role in “King Richard.”

Rock, who was about to present Oscar for best documentary, declined to file charges when asked by police. He has only briefly addressed the attack publicly, saying at one comedy concert in Boston this week that he was still “kind of processing what happened.”

## COVID-19 temporarily stops Daniel Craig’s return to Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—Could it be the curse of the Scottish play? Daniel Craig’s return to Broadway in a new version of “Macbeth” has been temporarily halted after the actor contracted COVID-19.

Wednesday’s matinee and evening performances were canceled when the James Bond actor tested positive. When he’ll return was not immediately known, but protocols indicate it could be several

days at least.

Craig stars in a revival of Williams Shakespeare’s tragedy, with Ruth Negga making her Broadway debut playing Lady Macbeth.

“Macbeth” is playing the

Lyceum Theatre, with an opening set for April 28. Tony Award-winner Sam Gold is directing.

According to folklore, “Macbeth” was cursed from the beginning, when a coven

of witches objected to Shakespeare using real incantations and put a curse on the play. Other productions have been plagued with accidents.

Craig was last on Broadway in a 2013 revival of Harold Pinter’s “Betrayal” opposite his wife, Rachel Weisz, and directed by Mike Nichols.



Craig

Craig also starred opposite Hugh Jackman in 2009’s “A

Steady Rain.” Gold directed Craig in a 2016 off-Broadway production of “Othello” alongside David Oyelowo.

Other high-profile shows on Broadway have had to cancel shows due to their lead actor’s contracting the virus, including both “The Music Man” leads, Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster.

## White House hosts transgender ‘Jeopardy!’ star Amy Schneider

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden marked Transgender Day of Visibility on Thursday by denouncing “hateful bills” being passed at the state level as the White House played host to “Jeopardy!” champion Amy Schneider, the first openly transgender winner on the popular quiz show.

Schneider met with second gentleman Doug Emhoff, who joined Rachel Levine, the assistant health secretary and the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the Senate, for a conversation with transgender kids and their parents.

Schneider used the moment in the Washington spotlight to speak out against bills affecting transgender people.

“They’re really scary and some of them in particular that are denying medical services to trans youth, those are, those are



AP

“Jeopardy!” champion Amy Schneider speaks with members of the press in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House, Thursday, March 31, 2022, in Washington.

lifesaving medical treatments,” Schneider told reporters. “These bills will cause the deaths of children and that’s really sad to me and it’s really frightening.”

Biden, in a brief video mes-

sage, said that “the onslaught of anti-transgender state laws attacking you and your families is simply wrong.” The president said his administration “is standing up for you against all these hateful bills.

And we’re committed to advancing transgender equality in the classroom, on the playing field, at work, in our military and our housing and health care systems.”

The administration announced several actions to make the federal government more inclusive for transgender people and said the Health and Human Services Department will be the first agency to fly a trans pride flag. The steps come as Republican leaders have advanced state measures targeting transgender people as part of a broader push to stoke culture wars heading into a critical election season.

The administration said the federal government will become more inclusive for transgender people, including through the use of a new “X” gender marker on U.S. passport applications, beginning on April 11, and new Transportation Security Administration scanners that are gender-neutral.

Elton John credits Ryan White’s family with saving his life

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Elton John credits teenage AIDS victim Ryan White and his family with saving his life.

The singer told the crowd at his concert at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Friday that spending time around White’s family caused him to make changes in his life. White was from Indiana.

“I knew that my lifestyle was crazy and out of order. And six months later, I got sober and clean and have been ever since,” John said.

He said White’s family was the catalyst for him to change.

“I cannot thank them enough, because without

them, I’d probably be dead,” the singer said, WTHR-TV reported.

White died in Indianapolis at age 18 on April 8, 1990. He had contracted HIV years earlier through a tainted blood transfusion. His mother, Jeanne White-Ginder continues to share a close relationship with John, who acknowledged her presence at the concert.

“I love you so much,” John said. “Thank you for all you’ve done for me. This song is for you.”

He then began playing “Don’t Let The Sun Go Down On Me.”

## Son has gradually turned away from mom over years

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I divorced when our only son was 3. We had joint custody. Our marriage ended because of his binge drinking, secrecy, verbal abuse and one incident of domestic violence. At 14, my son chose to live with his father.

His dad and stepmother have now alienated him from me. He’s 30 now and has had problems abusing alcohol and marijuana. When I see him, there is always underlying hostility. I love and fear for him, as any mother would.

I attend Al-Anon meetings and have made myself geographically available to him over the last eight years. He visits briefly, once or twice every six months. I have offered to go to counseling with him. He has a counselor but never invites me to come. I would pay for one, but my son says he’s too busy to do more. Should I just give up? I’m afraid of letting go, but emotionally drained from the struggle.

**MOM WITH A BREAKING HEART**

**DEAR MOM:** You have done everything you can to repair the tie that was broken so long ago. You can’t fix what’s wrong with your son. Whatever problems there were in the past, you have tried to deal with them the best you could. There is a saying in AA, “Let go and let God.” For the sake

of your own emotional well-being, it is time to do that.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I have been dating for a year. We are now making arrangements to move in together. I consider myself lucky because every day my partner tells me I’m beautiful, that I am kind and many wonderful things. I know he adores me. However, he has not told me he loves me. Nor have I said it to him. Am I old-fashioned in assuming my male partner should tell me he loves me first? I’m getting impatient.

**GREAT GIRLFRIEND IN IDAHO**

**DEAR GIRLFRIEND:** I have a suggestion. Before you move in with this man, why don’t you simply ASK him why he hasn’t said the words you long to hear? From what you have written, he demonstrates it often. His answer may be enlightening and could affect whether you proceed with your plans.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** We live next door to a nice Jewish family, with three precious kids who seem to really like us old retirees. I had planned to make a Passover cake for them and had input on how to prepare kosher. However, I am having second thoughts.

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Should I send a card telling them I’d like to prepare something? Or should I go ahead and prepare it anyway? Or should I just send a Passover greeting instead?

**WONDERING IN TEXAS**

**DEAR WONDERING:** A card might be the wiser way to go. Before you go to the expense of buying the ingredients, talk with the wife. Tell her what you are planning and find out how “strictly kosher” the family is. While some families would welcome your generosity, others might prefer not to consume something that wasn’t prepared from kosher products **AND PREPARED IN A KOSHER KITCHEN.**



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Quick swim

4 Tears into

9 Mischief

12 Artist

13 Yoko

13 Beethoven's "Für —"

14 Flamenco cheer

15 Fonzie's sitcom

17 Poem of praise

18 Nay

19 "Stranger Things" character

21 Author

24 Carton sealer

25 Extinct bird

26 Broadway's Hagen

28 Mattress brand

31 Unslightly

33 "Evil Woman" gp.

35 Biblical land

**DOWN**

36 Up to now

38 Obama-care acronym

40 In the past

41 Historic Scott

43 Quake

45 Flaxen-haired

47 Sales rep.

48 "30 Rock" role

49 Super-sturdy

54 Golf peg

55 Large bay

56 Nemesis

57 Tax form ID

58 Pithy

59 Personal

1 Homer's cry

2 — bind

3 Mom's mate

4 "Psst!"

5 Not too soft, as

6 "Diamonds"

7 To date

8 Electric cars

9 Lake Mead

10 Shoppe

11 Existed

16 Standard

20 Slender weapon

21 Flightless birds

22 Comic strip

23 Six

27 In the style of

29 Takeout request

30 Love god

32 Knitting fiber

34 Scale ranges

37 Very popular

39 Sock pattern

42 Plow pioneer

44 Takeoff stat

45 Diner orders

46 Fibs

50 Balloon filler

51 Martian's ride

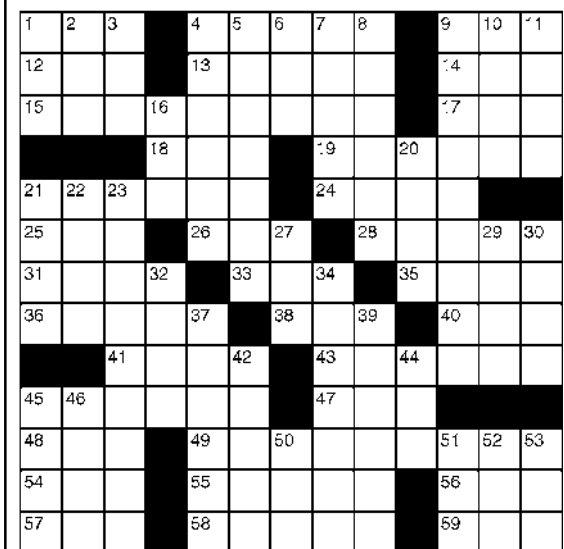
52 Highway rescue

53 Longing

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

SEC	PMS	CITED
AVA	LOE	OCALA
LIP	COPIOUSLY	
ETE	SLAMS	
MARC	ALA	SEER
	HUH	COPULA
BORIS	HARS	
COPLEY	DOW	
COME	ATE	NARC
	SLOBS	PAL
COPACETIC	PGA	
ARENA	ETA	LES
BLAND	MSN	YDS

Last Friday's Answer 04/04



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Robert Downey Jr., 57; David Cross, 58; Christine Lahti, 72; Craig T. Nelson, 78.

**Happy Birthday:** Put a plan and workable schedule in place. Organization, preparation, discipline and common sense will help you get the results you desire. Refuse to let your emotions interfere or cause you to make decisions that are detrimental to your health or emotional well-being. Speak the truth, and keep a clear conscience. Accept the inevitable, and dismiss change that isn't necessary. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 26, 32, 38, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Assess personal situations and proceed. Refuse to let anyone disrupt your plans or momentum. Avoid places and events that pose a threat to your health or finances. Don't trust someone with matters concerning institutions. Speak on your behalf. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Look for the good and the positive in everyone and everything. Attitude will make a difference when dealing with situations that can affect your livelihood and your ability to get the help you need to go about your day. Keep the peace. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Offer only what you know you can deliver. Put everything you've got into a plan you believe in or something meaningful to you. Learn by watching others, and you'll bypass making an unnecessary mistake. Be wise, prudent and kind. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Get things done on time. What you do will be more influential than what you say. Take a

unique approach to how you deal with money and health matters. Make a change that will have an impact on the way you live. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Keep an open mind, and you'll learn something valuable. A conversation with an expert will encourage you to slow down, pay closer attention to detail. Stick to what you know and trust. Making a hasty move will hinder your emotional well-being. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Mix and match, and you'll come up with the idea that strikes a chord with someone who can help you. Don't let the changes going on around you cause worry. Take care of your responsibilities, and everything else will fall into place. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Take time to enjoy a precious moment. Live, love, laugh and enjoy what life has to offer. Share your intentions with someone you want to hang out with more. Don't go into debt to prove a point or impress someone. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You'll be faced with changes at home or when it comes to partnerships. Listen carefully and consider how to satisfy everyone's needs without disrupting your long-term plans. The path forward will require ingenuity and compromise if you want to reach your goal. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Participate and learn. Question anything you don't understand or that seems unrealistic. A short trip, meeting or educational pursuit will help you adjust your plans to fit trends. Don't

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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dawdle or let others step in and take over. ★★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Look for unique ways to invest or use your money to increase your profits. Raising your assets and lowering your liabilities will ease stress and give you more time to spend doing the things you enjoy most. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Sit tight if you aren't prepared. You have time to coordinate and research. Refuse to let someone's impatience take over and push you forward without due cause. Choose the pace that feels comfortable, and don't be afraid to proceed by yourself. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Get your facts straight and your documents in order, and put them to the test. The changes you make will draw attention and buy you the help you require to get things done in a timely fashion. ★★★★★

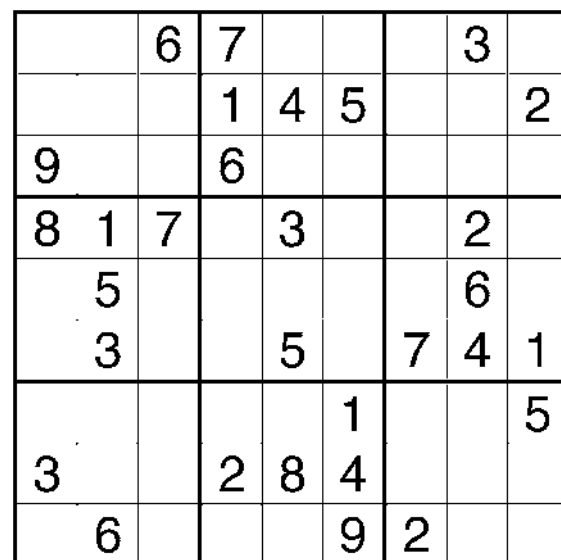
**Birthday Baby:** You are quick-witted, colorful and ambitious. You are sensitive and protective.

★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



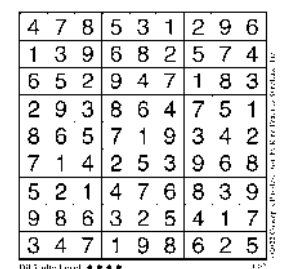
Difficulty Level ★

4/04

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SHELLAC IT!

Solution: 7 letters



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4/4

Amber, Antiques, Brand, Brush, Cabinet, Chair, Coating, Coin, Color, Cotton, Doors, Dries, Durable, Finish, Floor, Frame, Furniture, Garnet, Glitter, Home, Indoor, Lacquer, Layer, Light, Manicure, Nails, Pedicure, Product, Protect, Rags, Sanding, Sealer, Shade, Shine, Smooth, Soak, Solvent, Sparkle, Spill, Surface, Tint, Tone, Touch, Tough, Transparent

Last Friday's Answer: Plot

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.



# UNC gets best of Duke in epic 3rd meeting at Final Four

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—In a titanic third battle, Caleb Love and North Carolina proved they could play their outside-shooting finesse attack better than Duke could play bully ball.

The first meeting in the NCAA Tournament between the longtime rivals ended with a familiar storyline from the regular-season finale, when the Tar Heels got their offense humming after halftime with 3-pointers, floor spacing and off-the-dribble drives against Duke. They kept answering every push from the bigger and stronger Blue Devils, who tried to physically impose their will.

And this time, it secured a chance to play for the national championship.

North Carolina outlasted Duke 81-77 in Saturday night's Final Four after shooting 50% and making 7 of 13 3-pointers after halftime in an iron-willed performance. It not only sent UNC on to Monday night's title game to face Kansas, but it also ended the Hall of Fame career of retiring Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Consider it another validation of first-year coach Hubert Davis' belief in his players all season, including a backcourt in Love and R.J. Davis that has blossomed since the Tar Heels looked iffy to even make the NCAA Tournament as recently as February.

"Coach puts the ball in me or R.J.'s hand and tells us to make a play," Love said. "R.J. and me have been doing it all season. Whoever has the ball,



North Carolina's Brady Manek (45) celebrates after beating Duke in a college basketball game during the semifinal round of the Men's Final Four NCAA tournament, Saturday, April 2, 2022, in New Orleans.

we both made great plays and it just happened to be in my hands, so I made the play. And we came out on top."

Hubert Davis, a former UNC player and 12-year NBA veteran, had said he would pull from lessons learned under late Hall of Fame mentor Dean Smith as well as retired Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams, his predecessor. Yet he would also add his own flavor to the Tar Heels' schemes, including a premium on more floor spacing with the ability to stretch defenses around 6-foot-10 Ar-

mando Bacot with an inside-out approach.

Saturday night's win in a matchup with the stakes higher than ever before offered everything the new coach had envisioned.

"From an offensive standpoint, we have to make 3s," Hubert Davis said. "But the beauty for us is that we have a number of guys that can shoot 3s. It's not just one 3-point shooter. We've got a number of guys that can shoot the ball.

"The thing that I love about

our shooters, not only can they shoot, they shoot good shots."

And man, did they hit some big ones, too.

Love was fearless again by shaking off an 0-for-5 start to score 28 points on 11-for-20 shooting, including a monster 3-pointer with 24.8 seconds left for a 78-74 lead. Brady Manek also came through after a rough first half with 10 second-half points, including three 3s of his own.

When it was over, the Superdome — filled with tense Tar Heels and Blue Devils fans

— erupted into a roar as UNC began an on-court celebration while the dejected Blue Devils began to untuck their jerseys on their way back to the bench.

And after a series of post-game interviews, Love and R.J. Davis were practically skipping off the court for the locker room.

The question entering Saturday night's game — besides whether the tension of this unplanned third meeting might be too much for the entire state of North Carolina to manage — was how Round 3 might look.

## Kansas cruises to 81-65 win over Villanova in Final Four

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—Ochai Agbaji followed a celebrating stream of Kansas players off the floor at the Final Four, their shouts of "One more!" echoing all the way up the tunnel of the Superdome and right to the door of their locker room.

One more game awaits, the biggest of their careers.

The Jayhawks earned a trip back to the national championship Saturday night with a shooting performance that will go down in history. David McCormack muscled his way to 25 points, Ochai Agbaji hit six 3-pointers and had 21, and the only No. 1 seed to reach the national semifinals rolled to an 81-65 victory over Villanova before a huge crowd that packed the home of the New Orleans Saints one year after the pandemic kept just about everyone away.

"That's everyone's attitude — even after this game, even after last weekend, the weekend before that — everyone's attitude was on to the next one," Agbaji said, "and not

looking too far ahead at what's going on Monday."

Well, they can look forward to a big-time showdown now: The Jayhawks, the winningest program in Division I history, will face North Carolina, which sits at No. 3 on the list and has been to more Final Fours than anyone.

The Tar Heels sent Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski into retirement with an 81-77 victory in their semifinal Saturday night.

The Jayhawks (33-6) hope a familiar pattern holds, too: The last three times Kansas and Villanova have met in the tourney, the winner has gone on to cut down the nets, including their lopsided Final Four matchup four years ago in San Antonio.

"You come to Kansas for big games," said Christian Braun, who had 10 points against the Wildcats, "but you don't come to Kansas to play in the Elite Eight. You don't come to Kansas to play in the Final Four. You come to play for a championship."

Playing without injured guard Justin Moore, the Wildcats (30-8) watched as Kansas scored the game's first 10 points and eventually built a 19-point cushion Saturday night. And despite big performances from Collin Gillespie, Brandon Slater and Jermaine Samuels, the short-handed and undersized Wildcats never made it all the way back.

Gillespie, playing in his 156th and final game for the Wildcats, hit five 3-pointers and finished with 17 points, while Slater hit four 3s and had 16 points. Samuels finished with 13 points in the final game of his career.

"They played great. They were well-prepared. They really executed," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "We did a lot of things wrong, but we want to make sure they get the credit they deserve. They played a great game."

Each team finished with 13 made 3-pointers, and the 26 total shots from beyond the arc set a record for a Final Four game, topping the 25 that the

same two teams made in 2018 at the Alamodome.

Unlike that night, though, it was the Jayhawks who pounced on Villanova at the start, trying to run ragged a team whose depth problems were only compounded by the loss of Moore, who tore his Achilles tendon in the regional finals.

The Jayhawks applied pressure the moment Villanova inbounded the ball. They unleashed traps in half-court, something they rarely did in the regular season. And they twice picked the pocket of Gillespie, a two-time Big East player of the year, leading to easy baskets and a 10-0 lead before some of the 70,000-plus fans had even found their seats.

"We got off to such a great start in large part because of how we shot the ball," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

Whenever Agbaji, the Big 12 player of the year, wasn't enjoying the soft rims of the Superdome to knock down 3s, the 6-foot-10, 250-pound Mc-

Cormack was having his way with the undersized Wildcats in the paint.

The Jayhawks' lead soon stretched to 15 midway through the first half before Wright finally called timeout.

His counterpart could probably relate: In a game that Self has been loath to re-watch, the Wildcats raced to a 22-4 lead out of the gates four years ago and cruised to a Final Four blowout and eventually their third national championship.

"This is legit revenge for 2018," tweeted the Mavericks' Jalen Brunson, who had a big role for Villanova that night.

Daniels and Gillespie did everything they could to rewrite the finish.

Daniels, the New Orleans native who began his career down the road at Tulane, kept making hustle plays around the hoop, and Gillespie, the blue-collar kid from Philadelphia, was able to knock down a couple of contested 3s.

The Jayhawks still led 50-34 early in the second

The Blue Devils won the first meeting on Feb. 5 in an 87-67 romp, a game that had them celebrating dunks and 3-pointers with glee while driving the Tar Heels' homestanding fans to flee for the exits with five minutes left in Krzyzewski's final trip to Chapel Hill.

But exactly four weeks ago, the Tar Heels stared down the emotional fever pitch from Krzyzewski's final home game at Cameron Indoor Stadium with a lights-out performance after halftime, shooting 59% while scoring 55 points in that 94-81 win.

In the end, this game ended up looking more like the latter. And this time, North Carolina will get to keep the final word against Krzyzewski and the Blue Devils with no more surprise meetings ahead.

Duke star freshman Paolo Banchero, a candidate to be the No. 1 overall NBA draft pick, finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds, including multiple strong drives to the basket and plays in the paint to highlight Duke's physical edge.

But the Blue Devils shot just 5 of 22 on 3-pointers, unable to match the Tar Heels' perimeter punch. And UNC kept the pressure on, working off ball screens and kick-outs for clean looks. Or there was Love taking big shots like his difficult scooping drive under the outstretched arm of 7-1 Duke big man Mark Williams for a 69-68 lead with 3:03 left.

"They made a couple more plays than we did," Krzyzewski said.

half when Wright went to a smaller lineup and ramped up the pressure on defense. The result was three consecutive turnovers, and quick 3-pointers by Slater and Antoine — the seldom-used guard who absorbed many of Moore's minutes — that allowed Villanova to trim the lead to single digits.

"We felt like we were right there," Gillespie said. "It's a long game, it's a 40-minute game, and we pride ourselves on playing 40 minutes every night. And we were just talking about dig, scrap and claw and try to steal it in the end."

McCormack finally made Villanova pay for going small with a rim-rattling dunk with 10:25 to play.

And when the Wildcats made one last run, getting a three-point play from Samuels to close within 64-58 with just over 6 minutes left, McCormack and Braun answered again. The latter's deep fadeaway 3 as the shot-clock expired gave Kansas some breathing room again, and the Big 12 champs coasted from there into Monday night's title game.



# Hawks win fifth straight, beat Nets despite Durant's 55



**ATLANTA (AP)**—Trae Young scored 36 points, including nine in the final minute, and the streaking Atlanta Hawks overcame Kevin Durant's career-high 55 points to hold off the Brooklyn Nets 122-115 on Saturday night for their fifth consecutive win.

Atlanta (41-37) moved into eighth place in the Eastern Conference, a game ahead of Brooklyn (40-38) and Charlotte.

Young's 3-pointer gave Atlanta a 116-108 lead. Durant reached his career scoring high with his layup with 19 seconds remaining.

The Hawks, attempting to regain the late-season momentum which pushed them to the last year's Eastern Conference finals, have won 10 of 13.

Durant set another career high by making eight 3-pointers.

The Nets' second consecutive loss left them locked into the play-in tournament, eliminating their slim hopes of moving up to sixth in the conference.

## Warriors 111, Jazz 107

In San Francisco, Klay Thompson scored 36 points and Golden State erased a 16-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Utah.

Jordan Poole added 31 and Andrew Wiggins had 17 as the Warriors clinched a playoff spot and snapped a four-game losing streak. At 49-29, they hold a one-game lead over the Dallas Mavericks for the third seed in the Western Conference. Utah is tied with Denver for the fifth spot.

Donovan Mitchell and Mike Conley each had 26 for Utah. It was an all-too-familiar storyline for the Jazz, who blew a 25-point lead in a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday. Utah has lost 15 games this season in which it held double-digit leads.

## Heat 127, Bulls 109

In Chicago, Jimmy Butler scored 22 points, Kyle Lowry and Tyler Herro added 19 apiece and Eastern Conference-leading Miami beat Chicago.

Bam Adebayo scored 16, and the hot-shooting Heat (50-28) reached the 50-win mark for the first time since the 2013-14 season.

Miami also increased its lead over second-place Milwaukee to 1 1/2 games and moved within a win of securing home-court advantage in Round 1 of the postseason. If the Heat go 3-1 the rest of the way, they'll clinch the top seed in the East.

Miami made it look easy in this one, building a nine-point halftime lead and breaking it



Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant (7) dribbles past Atlanta Hawks forward De'Andre Hunter (12) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, April 2, 2022, in Atlanta. AP

open in the third quarter. The Heat shot 53.7% in the game and made 17 of 34 3-pointers.

Butler, the former Bull, had seven rebounds and six assists. Herro matched a season high by nailing 6 of 7 3s, including three in the third.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 33 points. DeMar DeRozan finished with 26, though he shot 6 of 18, and the sixth-place Bulls fell a half-game behind Toronto with four to play.

## 76ers 144, Hornets 114

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 29 points, 14 rebounds and six assists, and Philadelphia snapped a three-game losing streak.

Philadelphia tied its franchise record of 21 3-pointers, last set on March 1, 2020.

Tobias Harris added 23 points and had a season-high five three-pointers as the Sixers placed seven players in double figures and were able to play their bench for the majority of the fourth quarter.

James Harden had 12 points and 13 assists for Philadelphia.

Miles Bridges had 20 points for Charlotte, who has already wrapped up a berth in the East's play-in tournament. PJ Washington had 14 points while LaMelo Ball added 13 for the Hornets.

## Cavaliers 119, Knicks 101

In New York, Darius Garland had 24 points and 13 assists to lead Cleveland over New York.

Garland led seven Cavaliers in double figures as Cleveland snapped a two-game losing streak.

Caris LeVert finished with 19 points. Moses Brown and

Isaac Okoro each added 16. Brown also had 13 rebounds. Kevin Love had 15 off the bench. Cedi Osman and Lau-

ri Markkanen both added 10 for Cleveland.

After a four-game winning streak, New York has lost

two straight.

Obi Toppin scored a career-high 20 points. Evan Fournier had 19. Immanuel Quick-

ley scored 17 off the bench. RJ Barrett finished with 12, and Alec Burks had 11 for New York.

# Ginobili, Hardaway, Karl among 2022 Hall of Fame class

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—When Manu Ginobili reflects on the odds of a kid from Argentina growing up to win four NBA titles and Olympic gold, he sounds in awe that that is in fact the story of his athletic life.

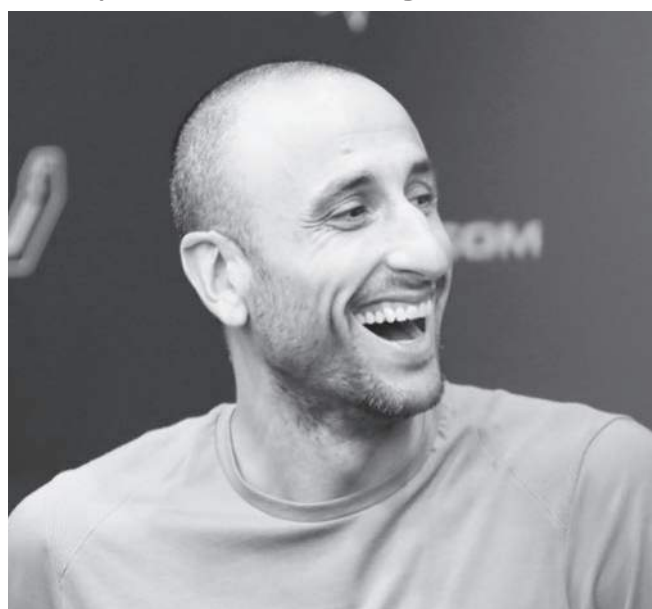
"It's one in tens of millions," Ginobili said Saturday after an official announcement that he has been inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "The odds are very, very slim and it just happened to me. I don't know what happened, but I was the one."

"I happen to be an important part of two very iconic teams of those couple decades of both FIBA and with the NBA. Incredibly lucky and fortunate to be a part of those two."

Ginobili, five-time All-Star Tim Hardaway and decorated former coach George Karl were the household NBA names in the 2022 class of inductees announced in New Orleans at the site of the NCAA Final Four.

Also selected this year were former WNBA champion and two-time college national champion Swin Cash; long-time college coach Bob Huggins, WNBA champion and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist Lindsay Whalen; NCAA national championship coach and former WNBA Coach of the Year Marianne Stanley, and former NBA official Hugh Evans.

The class will be enshrined in Springfield, Massachusetts,



Former San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili jokes with the media at the NBA basketball team's practice facility, Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, in San Antonio. AP

on Sept. 10.

Ginobili, a two-time All-Star, spent his entire 16-year NBA career with San Antonio. He similarly credited his long stint with the Argentina national team that was regularly among the best in the world.

"I was a part of two incredible teams; if it wasn't for being part of those two teams, I wouldn't be here," Ginobili said. "It's not just about individual accomplishments. I never won a scoring championship, an MVP or even (All-NBA) First Team. I'm here because of my surroundings, of the players I played with, of the coaches I was coached (by) and the organizations. I know I've

been very lucky."

But Ginobili did leave his mark on the game in the way he employed lateral movement after picking up his dribble to get up shots in the paint. It became known as the "Eurostep," because Ginobili had played for a EuroLeague championship-winning team in Bologna, Italy, before coming to the NBA.

"I never saw that I created anything or brought anything new. I just played the only way I thought possible," Ginobili explained, bringing up the challenge of trying to score against 7-footer Shaquille O'Neal early in his career.

"I was not going to go over

Shaq and dunk, I had to go around people," Ginobili said. "That's the way my skill set and physical abilities found to get to the rim. I've done it since I can remember."

Ginobili recalled Steve Kerr bringing more attention to the move when he sport about "how weird it looked."

"I looked like a squirrel crossing the street getting to the rim," Ginobili said, referring to his recollection of Kerr's description. "That's when I started to realize I was doing something a bit different and people started mentioning the Eurostep. For me, it was completely natural."

Hardaway played 15 NBA seasons from 1989 to 2003 with Golden State, Miami, Dallas, Denver and Indiana.

Karl played in the NBA for five seasons in San Antonio before coaching for 27 years, during which he won 1,175 games — placing him sixth all-time. He was voted NBA Coach of the Year in 2013.

Huggins has more than 900 NCAA wins in a college coaching career that began in 1977 and is currently at West Virginia.

Cash, who already has been elected to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, is currently an executive with the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans. She won two NCAA national titles with Connecticut and a WNBA title with Detroit. She also worked as an executive with the WNBA's New York Liberty.





# Chae, Choi arrange rematch in boys 12 finale

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Ian Chae and Ryan Choi arranged a finals matchup in the boys 12-and-under division of the Bridge Capital Tennis Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Chae, the top seed, advanced to the finals after overwhelming Matthew Hwang, 6-1, 6-1, while No. 2 Choi booked his chance for a championship and redemption against Chae following an 8-1 win over Quido Jambor.

Chae and Choi played each other in the 2022 White Coconut Tennis Classic last February. Choi, however, was the No. 1 seed then and lost to the unseeded Choi, 6-3, 6-2, in the semifinals. Chae eventually took the plum after turning back Jihun Park, 6-2, 6-2, for all the marbles.

The girls 12-and-under is a two-horse race between Lina Tsukahoshi and Amy Park, but results were still unavailable as of press time.

In the boys 10-and-under it will be Michael Jeon against Cody Park. Jeon, the No. 1 seed, advanced after a 6-0 victory over Yoosong "Sam" Choi, while Park was a 6-1 winner over Seungwoo Lee in their own semifinals.

In the girls 10-and-under, Stella Choi and Emma Lang are currently at 2-0 and are on a collision course for the title. Choi beat Vivian Chung, 6-1, and Jenna Pascual, 6-0. Lang was a 6-2 victor over Chung and a 6-1 winner against Pascual.

Henry Choi justified his top ranking in the boys 14-and-under after punching a finals ticket with a 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 4 Henry Yeom. His opponent in the finals is Siwoo Lee

after the second seed edged Nason Wessel, 6-1, 7-5.

In the girls 14-and-under, top seed Irin Chung will take on second seed Hoo Wang for the championship. Chung reached the finals after drubbing Hannah Chae, 6-1, 6-1, while Wang was a 7-5, 6-2 winner over Anna Kwon in the lower half of the draw.

David Kwon eased to the finals of the boys 16-and-under following a 6-3, 6-2 conquest of No. 4 Wataru Kadokura. No. 3 Cody Shimizu, meanwhile, upset No. 2 June Yu, 7-5, 6-4, to reach the championship round.

In the mixed 18-and-under doubles, the top seeds arranged the finals showdown after No. 1 Jimin Woo and Serin Chung beat David Kwon and Anna Kwon, 6-2, 6-1, in the semis and No. 2 Andy Kim and Hyejin Elliot dispatched Cody Shimizu and Irin Chung, 6-1,



Chae



Choi

6-2, in their own semis match.

Matthew Hwang and Annie Lee are lording it over in the mixed 12-and-under doubles following a 3-0 start. They beat Jihun Park and Vivian Chung,

6-4, 6-2, before dropping Cody Park and Jenna Pascual, 6-1, 6-1. They also defeated Eamon Tang and Luna Tsukagoshi in an epic 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3) match.

Results of the division finals

of the Bridge Capital Tennis Classic, which is organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association, will be reported in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

## 5K Literacy Fun Run/Walk to finally push through

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in cooperation with Run Saipan will finally hold the 5K Literacy Fun Run/Walk originally set last December this coming April 23.

The fun run/walk, which is free and open to the entire community, starts at 6am at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe with the turnaround at Quartermaster Road.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz is excited that their non-profit group's partnership with the JKPL is finally pushing through and

Run Saipan can support the library, especially with National Library Week set this April.

"I also urge not just our running community but our entire community to donate funds to The Friends of the Library at the JKPL 5K. Please join us in support of them," he said.

Free T-shirts will be distributed on the day of the event for the first 75 registered participants. Sizes are limited on a first-come, first-registered basis. Photo/video release and liability forms must be completed during event-day registration. Bottled water will be provided for participants and temperature



MARK RABAGO

The 5K Literacy Fun Run/Walk will be held on April 23 and will have participants run/walk from the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe to the turnaround at Quartermaster Road and back.

checks spare and hand sanitizer stations will be available.

Community sponsors and donors are encouraged to do-

in-kind support, and sponsorship for the 30th anniversary programs and services. The public library welcomes and encourages businesses and private donors to consider donating cash contributions. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, JKPL is able to receive cash contributions under ETC; make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury.

The JKPL encourages all participants to contact the JKPL at (670) 235-7315/7322/7323 (READ) to sign up. Signing up does not count for registering.

To register, copy and paste <https://docs.google.com/forms/de/1FAIpQLSeMEpb>

Oct 9 F v m e u R v \_ W V 8 h j S q X B R y O m C - BE6ZgpR6iY3R9Cmg/viewform?fbclid=IwAR38Jq5qTioagd2fCcc6vED99DZWqLGEzf2Swd85m-blXzuTiRXHHRqZ4tI to your browsers.

Visit JKPL's website [www.cnmlib.org](http://www.cnmlib.org) and follow them on Facebook and Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary for the latest news and updates. Please call JKPL at (670) 235-7322/7323 (READ) should you have any questions. JKPL's regular hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday through Thursday from 10am to 6am, Friday from 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, and holidays.

### NMI

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into two overtime periods or the match lasted 50 minutes—instead of the regular 40-minute tiff. Destiny Pangelinan, one of the offensive threats on the team, played the whole game and finished with a team-high 20 points. Angel Roligat

and Mikky Kautz were on the floor for more than 40 minutes and combined for 19 markers.

Less than 24 hours after the tough game against Fuetsa, the NMI players returned to the UOG Calvo Field House and were in for a much physical match against the Lady Bombers.

"This game was very much

more physical and they (Lady Bombers) were way more experienced. The physicality of the game caught some players off guard but they kept at it. It was great for our post players to play against strong post opponents and we did a lot better on our rebounding. Our outside shots were not falling so we had to drive and get the ball in-

side," Attao-Toves said.

For their last game and despite absorbing back-to-back losses, the NMI coach said their players stayed focused and remained positive.

"We had a game plan and they executed it. We wanted to run some offensive plays and improve our scoring ability. This game helped us with that,"

Attao-Toves said.

Pangelinan delivered 13 points in the win, while Roligat added 11 and four other players scored at least 6 points apiece.

After completing the friendlylies in Guam, the pool that was organized under the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's national program returned to Saipan last Sun-

day morning and will resume practice this week to further work on their team and individual skills.

"Now that we have a glimpse into our competition and where we are at, and with this experience, we are back to the drawing board. We will review the games in Guam and get back to work," the coach added. (PR)

### GCA

From Page 20

the season style instead of the tournament style from last time." The Eagles had "2-3 weeks preparation" prior to the start of the season and they played against a team that came prepared.

He added that since it's just the beginning, the teams "will learn from each other... learn from their strengths and weaknesses." As for his team, he said they are "enjoying and preparing," and told

them to "give your best and work hard."

GCA returned to action in the evening match and defeated Saipan Southern High School 2 in similar fashion as the Manta Rays could barely score against the high-flying Eagles, 21-10 and 21-3.

The GCA men's high school volleyball team is made up of Julian Taitano, Kyle Moon, Sui Yi, Theodore Rodgers, Jasper Hall, Tyran Joe Suares, Jiahao Yang, Akira Ota, Steven Adriatico, Ryan Daproza, Spencer Palacios, and Steven Balakrishna.

In other games played Thursday, Mount Carmel School 1 got the better of Saipan Southern High School 1, 21-11 and 21-14.

MCS 1's sister team MCS 2 though were no match versus Kagman High School as they were swept in two sets, 21-12, 21-15.

In the game between MHS 3 against MCS 2, the Knights redeemed themselves after three tough sets against the Dolphins. The Dolphins secured the first set, 21-16, but the Knights picked up the slack in the last two sets and

won, 21-15 and 15-11.

With GCA's two wins last Thursday, the Eagles join MCS 1 atop the win-loss standings at 3-0, followed by MCS 1 (2-0), KHS (2-0), Saipan International School 1 (1-1), MHS 1 (1-1), MCS 2 (1-2), SSHS 1 (0-1), MHS 3 (0-2), and SSHS 2 (0-4). SIS has yet to see action this season.

The Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

### GANACIAS

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all, about golf, is that it is my stress-reliever."

Coming in second to Ganacias in the Fil-Taga March Ace of the Month Tournament was Joseph Fernandez, who shot a net 72 on the power of his 23 handicap that shredded his gross of 95 (47-48). Completing the Top 3 was Tony Cabrera who had a net 74 (95, 48-47).

Ganacias thus joins Ruben Avendano (January) and Lito Mendoza (February) as the

early qualifiers for the Fil-Taga's Ace of Aces Tournament for 2022.

A total of 13 golfers took part in Fil-Taga's March Ace of the Month Tournament and the rest are the following with their net scores in parenthesis: Ed Varias (75), Freddie Cataluna (75), Avendano (76), Rodel Macasinag (77), Mike Cruz (78), Wil Mau (78), Bae Hak Chon (79), Emil Padermal (80), Jhun Cayetano (86), and Romy Cayetano (96). In the par 3 competition, Cataluna, Ganacias (twice), and Maui took the cake.





UNC gets best of Duke in epic 3rd meeting at Final Four  
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20 MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## NMI women's pool gets thru 1st learning curve

The NMI National Team Program's women's pool completed its three friendly matches in Guam and had a lot of takeaways from these games that would help better prepare the group for the FIBA Micronesia Cup.

The pool closed out the NMI Friendship Classic hosted by the University of Guam Athletics with a 58-28 victory over the UOG Lady Tritons last Saturday. The win came after the group dropped its first two friendly matches, losing to



Fuetsa last Thursday, 70-82, in double overtime and to the Andersen Air Force Base's Lady Bombers last Friday, 24-75.

"This friendly tournament has been a great learning experience for all of us and it was so excit-

ing to see our team play strong teams in a very organized environment. Each game had a higher level of physicality, however, throughout the games, our team displayed great attitude, character and good will, said NMI Women's National Team coach Cathy Attao-Toves.

"There are many things we learned and will be working on, leading up to June (FIBA Micronesia Cup). We are able to assess our players a bit further and we will work on individual development plans, which includes a higher level of physical fitness," she added.

The pool had its stamina tested right in the opening game of the series, as its duel against Fuetsa was extended

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TRITON ATHLETICS

Coach Catherine Attao-Toves, standing right, gives instructions to their players during a break in their game against Fuetsa, while assistant coach David John Apatang looks on last Thursday at the UOG Calvo Field House.



TRITON ATHLETICS

The NMI's Azriel Fatialofa, left, and Fiona Bucalig, right, battle two Lady Bombers players for the rebound during their friendly game in the NMI Friendship Classic last Friday at the UOG Calvo Field House.

## GCA Eagles soar above MHS Dolphins 1

By LEIGH GASES  
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CORRESPONDENT



Grace Christian Academy remained perfect after vanquishing two opponents on the second playdate of the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 last Thursday at the sweltering hot and jam-packed Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Eagles bucked a decidedly pro-Dolphins crowd and defeated home team MHS 1 in its first assignment. The first set was won by the Eagles, 21-17, as the Dolphins struggled to keep up. The Dolphins showed some grit as they pushed through the set, spiking hard and diving



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School 1 team captain Jasper Perez goes up for a spike against Grace Christian Academy during their match in the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

this way and that for the ball, but were no match against the soaring Eagles.

The match was eventually

won by the Eagles as they secured the win in the second and final set, 21-14.

When GCA coach Cesar

Liput was asked about the start of the season, he said "all teams are excited with

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**074**  
**DAYS LEFT UNTIL**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS**  
**PACIFIC MINI GAMES**  
**2022**  
**JUNE 17-25, 2022**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dan Ganacias won the Fil-Taga Golfers Association March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 26 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Obyan.

## Ganacias grateful for winning March Ace of the Month

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Dan Ganacias qualified for the season-ending Fil-Taga Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament after topping the club's March Ace of the Month Tournament last March 26 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Obyan.

The 60-year-old vice president of Engineering at RadioCom Saipan Inc. shot a net score of 70 after carding an 82 gross. Ganacias fired a 42 in the front nine before the 12-handicapper brought it home with a 40 in the back nine to take the club's

monthly honors.

The win was worth \$150 for Ganacias and he's grateful for topping the monthly ace and qualifying for Fil-Taga's Ace of Aces Tournament. Last year, he won the February Ace.

"I was surprised for winning our March Ace tournament and with that, I am grateful. We had a strong field that day. I set myself to just enjoy the game. My wife is very supportive of my golfing also helped on my winning. Thank you Zaiyira," he said.

Ganacias said the course conditions last March 26 were

such in good shape that good scores were just up for the taking. "The weather was also good that day that it did not pose much of a factor during our tournament."

He is dedicating his victory in the March Ace to his father, Lee Ganacias. "He introduced the game to me in my high school years. I did not like the sport then, but with my father's persistent encouragement, I grew to love the game of golf. I enjoy the camaraderie when I play golf with my clubmates or any players I play with. Best of

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